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THE
HISTORY
OF THE
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER;
BROUGHT DOWN
TO THE YEAR 1803.

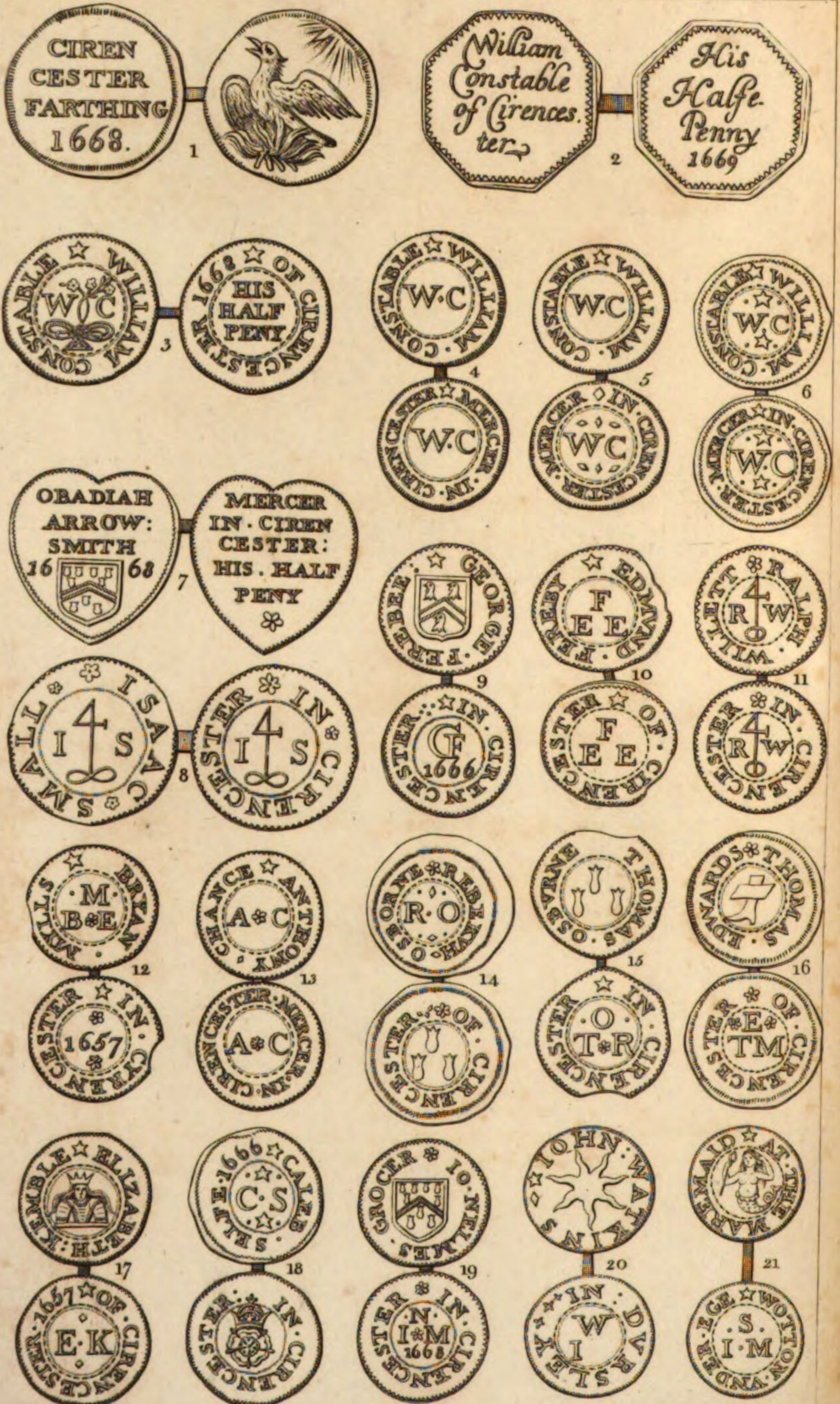
VOL. II.

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THE
HISTORY
OF THE
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER;

BROUGHT DOWN
TO THE YEAR 1801.



THE
HISTORY
OF THE
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER;

COMPRESSED,

AND
BROUGHT DOWN TO THE YEAR 1803.

IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. II.

BY THE REV. THOMAS RUDGE, B. D.
RECTOR OF SAINT MICHAEL, IN GLOUCESTER.

Nec mihi vitio veritas, si res, quas ex lectione varia mutuabor, ipsis sæpe verbis, quibus
ab ipsis auctoribus enarratæ sunt, explicabo, quia præsens opus, non eloquentiæ ostentatio-
nem, sed noscendorum congeriem pollicetur.

MACROBIUS, SATURN. Lib. i. c. 1.

GLOUCESTER:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, BY G. F. HARRIS,
HERALD NEWSPAPER OFFICE;
AND SOLD BY LONGMAN AND REES, LONDON; WASHBOURN, HOUGH, AND
ROBERTS, GLOUCESTER; AND ALL OTHER BOOKSELLERS.

1803.

HISTORY
OF THE
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER

BROUGHT DOWN TO THE YEAR 1803

IN TWO VOLUMES
VOL. II.

BY THE REV. THOMAS HENRY, B.D.

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THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, FROM THE EARLIEST PERIODS TO THE PRESENT TIME, BY THOMAS HENRY, B.D. VOL. II.

GLOUCESTER:
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NEW YORK: HENRY AND SONS, 15 NASSAU ST. 1803.

THE
HISTORY
OF THE
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.

FOREST DIVISION.

THIS division contains six hundreds, four market-towns, 55 parishes, besides hamlets, 6050 inhabited houses, 6521 families, 274 uninhabited houses, 15,672 males, 15,221 females, 9975 persons chiefly employed in agriculture, 5052 in trade, &c. 15,866 not comprized in the two last classes, 30,893 total.

I. BOTLOE HUNDRED,

Contains the following parishes:—

191 Bromsborow	196 Pauntley
192 Dymock	197 Rudford
193 Kempley	198 Tainton
194 NEWENT, market town	199 Upleaden
195 Oxenhall	

II. DUTCHY OF LANCASTER.

200 Bully	203 Minsterworth
201 Huntley	204 Tibberton
202 Longhope	

III. WESTBURY.

205 Blaisdon	208 Tidenham
206 Churcham	209 Westbury
207 NEWNHAM, m. t.	210 Woolaston

IV. St. BRIAVELS.

211 Abbenhall	217 Lea
212 Bicknor, English	218 Newland,—with COL FORD, m. t.
213 DEAN, MITCHEL, m.t.	219 Ruerdean
214 Dean, Little	220 St. Briavels
215 Flaxley	221 Staunton
216 Hewelsfield	

V. BLIDESLOW.

222 Awre	223 Alvington	224 Lidney
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VI. DUDSTON and KING's BARTON.—*Upper Part.*

225 Badgworth	231 North Hamlets
226 Barnwood	232 Norton
227 Brockworth	233 Sandhurst
228 Churchdown	234 Shurdington, Great
229 Down-Hatherley	235 Witcomb, Great
230 Lassington	

Middle Part.

236 Barton Hamlets	241 Matson
237 Brookthrop	242 Pitchcomb
238 Elmore	243 South Hamlets
239 Hascomb	244 Upton St. Leonards
240 Hempstead	245 Whaddon

Lower Part.

246 Hartpury | 247 Maisemore | 248 Preston

The following places are either members of aggregate hamlets in the *same*, or of parishes in *different*, hundreds. The figures prefixed mark to which they respectively belong:—

206 High Leaden	243 Littleworth
228 Hucklecot	231 Kingsholm
231 Wotton	244 Prinknash
206 Highnam	243 Tuffley
231 Longford	231 Twigworth
206 Linton, and Over	

Woolstrop is a portion of *Quedgeley* (180).

At the time of the conquest, *WESTBERIE*, *WESTBERIES*, part of *LEDENEI*, and *TEDENHAM*, were included in the modern hundreds of *ST. BRIAVELS* and *WESTBURY*.

BLITESLAU, *BLIDESLAW*E, and part of *LEDENEI*, in *BLIDESLOW*.

BOTELAU, part of *WESTBERIE*, in *BOTLOE* and the *DUTCHY OF LANCASTER*.

DUDESTAN, *DUNESTAN*, *LANGEBRIGE*, *TOLANGEBRIGES*, in *DUDSTON* and *KING'S-BARTON*.

FOREST DIVISION.

FOREST OF DEAN.

THE most conspicuous feature in this division is the FOREST of DEAN, situate in the western part of the county, between the rivers Severn and Wye. The name has been variously defined. Camden and Atkyns derive it from the Gaulish and British word *Arden*, by removing the first syllable. A very extensive forest in Germany was so called before the time of Cæsar, and is so at the present period. The Latin writers, among whom is Giraldus, called it, *Danica Sylva*, *Danubia*, or *Dane's Wood*, from the traditional account of that people having sheltered themselves in it. Others derive it from the *dens*, or *small vallies*, which abound in the forest.

No history or record mentions the origin of any of the forests belonging to the crown, (the New Forest, in Hampshire excepted,) which, though made by William the Conqueror, is called by Manwood, "the newest forest in all England." The bounds of many of the forests were enlarged by Henry II., Richard I., and John; but they were reduced to their ancient limits in the reign of Edw. I. agreeably to the provisions of the *Charta de Foresta*; and, in order to ascertain those limits, perambulations were then made, and afterwards confirmed by Parlia-

ment. In the tenth year of Charles I. at a justice seat held at Gloucester castle, the ancient and legal bounds were settled, according to the perambulations made 12 Hen. III. and 10 Edw. I.; and within these bounds are contained 23,015 acres belonging to the crown, exclusive of a tract of land called Abbott's Wood, containing 872 acres, which was granted in fee, 42 Hen. II. to the convent of Flaxley, and at the dissolution, 36 Henry VIII. granted to Sir Anthony Kingston and his heirs, from whom, by purchase and inheritance, it has descended, with the manor of Flaxley, to Sir Thos. Crawley Boevey, Bart. The original grant reserved the herbage for the King's deer and wild beasts; with all mines and quarries, giving power to the grantee to inclose one-tenth part thereof, and to hold the same inclosed, against all animals, except the King's deer and other wild or venary beasts, leaving nine parts always open.

In consequence of public commotions, the grants of weak or improvident Princes, the neglect or abuses of officers, and the unlawful encroachments of others, great waste and devastations have been committed at various periods. In no instance perhaps was greater mischief done than by Sir John Wintour, to whom a grant was made by Charles I. of all the King's coppices and waste soil of the forest, (except the Lea Bayley) with all mines and quarries, in consideration of 10,600*l.* and a fee farm rent of 1950*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* for ever. At this time, within the limits of the forest so granted, there were growing 105,557 trees, containing 61,928 tons of timber, 153,209 cords of wood. The full extent of the mischief likely to be occasioned by this grant was prevented by the civil war, which put an end to this patent. Eighteen thousand acres were intended to be inclosed, but the inclosures which had been

made were now thrown down, and the whole re-afforested. On the restoration of monarchy Sir John's grant was revived; but on the representation of the neighbouring inhabitants to government, of the injury they and the public were likely to sustain, a commission was issued for the purpose of enquiring into the state of the forest; and upon an accurate survey there were found 25,929 oaks, and 4204 beeches, containing 121,572 cords of wood, and 11,335 tons of ship timber fit for the navy. On return of this commission, a new grant was made to the nominees of Sir John Wintour, of all the above mentioned trees, except the 11,335 tons of ship timber. Five hundred cutters of wood were immediately employed, and so rapid and alarming was the devastation, that an order of Parliament was made to put a stop to any further felling of timber or cutting of wood. The parliament, however, being prorogued before a bill could be passed, Sir John was left at full liberty to continue cutting, so that on a new survey in 1667 it was found, that of the 30,133 trees only 200 remained; and of the 11,335 tons of ship timber reserved, not more than 1100 tons had been delivered, and there would be a deficiency of 7 or 8000 tons. To repair these mischiefs, by an act of 20 Charles II. 11,000 acres were inclosed, planted, and carefully protected; and it is chiefly in the parts at that time inclosed, that the timber with which the dock-yards have since been furnished from this forest, has been felled, and in which any considerable quantity of useful timber is now to be found.

Another cause of considerable mischief was, the incroachments and intrusions of the free-miners and others; therefore during the usurpation, Cromwell expelled nearly 400 cabins of beggarly people, living upon the waste, and destroying the wood and timber. In 1680, about thirty

cabins had been again erected, which were demolished, with the inclosures about them. Sir Robert Atkyns observes, that in his time the six lodges built for the keepers were the only houses within the forest, and that all the cottages were pulled down. These attentions and regulations seemed to have produced many beneficial effects, and it is probable that, by the zeal and co-operation of the crown officers, surveyors, and other subordinate agents, the forest was in its best state about this time.

From the relaxation, however, of the legal government of the forest, and the neglect of those to whom the care of this valuable property was entrusted, abuses gradually crept in, and have been suffered to increase to such a height as sufficiently accounts for the wasted and unprofitable condition to which it is now reduced. In 1714 it was computed, that there were 27,302 loads fit for the navy, and 16,851 of about sixty years growth, besides 20,066 loads of dotard¹ and decaying. In 1783 it was computed, on a fresh survey, that there were 90,382 oak trees, containing 95,043 loads, and 17,982 beech trees, computed at 16,492 loads; and in 1788 the timber growing in the forest was nearly as follows: 24,000 oak trees, measuring on an average a load and a quarter each, girt measure; 22,000 about half a load each, besides unsound trees, which were numerous, and a considerable quantity of fine large beech, and young growing trees in various parts. The persons employed in the last survey observed, that if the survey of 1783 were accurately taken, an immense quantity of timber must have been, in one way or other, taken down since that period. The ravages, indeed, of the timber stealers are very great. In seven years, Thomas Blunt, Esq. with the assistance of the keepers, brought to conviction 247 persons of this description

The principal stock of young timber from which any expectation can be formed at present, is in the *Lea Baily*, and *Liningwoods*, which in general are well planted and preserved; but it is apprehended that of the inclosures which have been made within the last 35 years, of upwards of 2800 acres, only 323 will produce any great advantage from the almost total demolition of the fences. In the *Buckholt* inclosure, made about 100 years since, are some fine large oak, and young beech in abundance.

The general demand of timber for the use of the navy of England is said to be 25,000 loads yearly; of which 2000 only are supplied from all the King's forests. The forest of Dean furnishes about half of the 2000, while the remainder is made up from Dantzic, in plank about 1000, and 21,000 purchased from individuals. It has been stated by surveyors that the forest is capable of furnishing an annual supply of 1500 loads for 70 years in constant succession from the present stock, (1788), and by proper management, and regular inclosures it may be made perpetual.

From 1761 to 1786, (both inclusive) the total quantity and value of timber felled for the use of the navy was as follows:—

	<i>Loads.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Total quantity of oak - - -	16,573 —	30,814	14	4
Ditto beech - - -	871 —	908	13	7
	<i>Cords.</i>			
Total quantity of cordwood -	22,430 —	6,953	7	1
Stakes sold in 1786 - - -	—	12	3	10½
	<i>Tons.</i>			
Total quantity of Bark - - -	1,510 —	2,650	1	5
		41,339	0	3½
Expences of viewing, felling, wages, poundage, allowances, &c. immedi- diately connected with the timber - -		13,619	13	7¼
Balance of navy timber account		£27,719	6	8¼

This balance divided by the number of years in the stated period, produces an annual profit to the crown of nearly £1066, and the annual quantity of oak timber supplied in the same period was about 637 loads, bearing little less than a *fortieth* proportion to the quantity regularly required for the use of the navy. It is obvious, therefore, what dependance is to be placed on this resource for the support of our naval armament, without some vigorous means being adopted for the planting and protecting nurseries for timber. It has however been stated by the surveyors, that the forest of Dean may be made a very valuable nursery of timber for the navy, and productive of a considerable revenue. The soil is unquestionably in a high degree favourable to the production of oak, but unremitting care and attention are necessary on the parts of those who are intrusted with the superintendence of this great national concern.

THE PRESENT STATE OF THE FOREST.

The forest is divided into six walks, called by the several names of the *Speech-house* walk, *Ruerdean* walk, *Worcester* walk, *Latimer* walk, *Blakeney* walk, and *Park-end* walk; which are under the care of six keepers, each of whom has a lodge and other buildings, and from 30 to 50 acres of land, inclosed from the forest. In the three first of these walks the whole of the lands belong to the crown; in the three last upwards of 1185 acres are claimed by individuals as freehold. These in general are encroachments made at different times, and now not easily to be reclaimed. In 1712 there was not one cottage in the forest; there are now 696, and 1798 patches or small inclosures of land, containing about 1385 acres, which are occupied by 3325 inhabitants. It is not perhaps easy to calculate the injury

which arises from this circumstance: but it is worthy of being remembered, that in 1800, during the extraordinary scarcity and dearness of provisions, these numerous intruders, having from their settlement in an extra parochial district, no legal demand of relief, were assisted by the crown, at the expence of 1000 pounds.

RIGHTS AND CLAIMS.

The 11,000 acres which were inclosed 20 Cha. II. are freed and discharged from all rights of common whatever. In the remaining quantity of 12,888 acres, the crown has different interests; in 10,816 it has the property of the soil, and of all the wood and timber, with a power to inclose any part thereof for the growth of timber, on throwing open an equal quantity of the original inclosure. In Abbot's wood, the herbage and mines are reserved to the crown; and in a detached part of the forest called *Hudnalls*, containing 1025 acres, the privilege of taking, cutting, and enjoying the wood growing thereon, is reserved to the inhabitants of St. Briavels. On the whole of the uninclosed, the neighbouring parishes have a right of common from May 4, to June 20, and from July 20, to November 22. The first interval is the *Fence* or *Fawning* month, and during the winter *Haining*, no animal, except 800 deer, which the crown has a right at all times to keep, ought to abide in the forest.

The crown may grant leases on the uninclosed part, but the right has not been exercised during the last century, and no lease now exists.

DEER.

It appears that the usual annual demand for deer on account of the crown, is four bucks and four does, but it

frequently happens, that the number is not completed, and the warrants are sent back unexecuted, in consequence of the scarcity of these animals.

COAL.

The free miners and colliers claim a right not only to dig for coal and ore, with the consent of the gaveller, but to be supplied with wood and timber for their works; and on an average of seven years, 1478 trees are annually delivered to them. In 1788 there were one hundred and twenty one coal-pits, (thirty one of which were not worked;) in these were employed 662 men, who are free-miners. The quantity of coal raised was about 94,432 tons in the year, which are conveyed to the lower parts of the county on the east side of the Severn, Monmouthshire, and Herefordshire. There are three sorts of coal, which at the pit were at that time delivered at the following prices: house-coal at about 4*s.* per ton: smith's-coal at about 3*s.* 6*d.* and lime-coal at about 2*s.* but the prices now are greater².

The miners, generally speaking, gain little more than a mere subsistence from their labours: to this circumstance, and perhaps a jealous anxiety about their rights, it is owing that the usual methods adopted in collieries, of drawing off the water by steam and other engines, are not introduced here. Hence new mines are frequently opened, as they cannot pursue the old ones to any considerable depth, on account of the water.

IRON.

In 1788 there were eight mines of iron, in which were employed twenty men. The following sorts of iron-ore are found here:—

Minera ferri chrystallizata, of a chrystalline form, not much attracted by the magnet.

Minera ferri nigricans, magneti amica, called by the miners brush ore. The colour is dark, and the forms are infinitely various, striated, radiated, and tesserated or broken into dice, very strongly attracted by the magnet.

The pipe ore is a collection of small cylindrical columns, standing close together, and issuing at one end from a lump of the same kind of matter, occasioned, it is supposed, by the metal falling like icicles in a state of fusion from the mass to which the pipes are affixed.

There is another rich and valuable ore, being a fine dark-coloured gravel, when washed by the rains, which is known by the name of *smithy ore* among the miners. This probably received its name from the *smith works*, as they are called, in the code of Forest Laws. The men who were employed in working them were called *smith men*, or *smithy men*; and the masters, *smith holders*.

CINDERS.

The CINDERS, which have been found in different parts of the county, and particularly about the forest of Dean, are the scoria of iron, so are the shining glass-like cinders of which great heaps, or mounts are to be seen at every iron furnace now in use, as well as the sites of those which are gone to decay. These are called *scruff*; the former having been called cinders before any of the latter were seen. *Scruff* is the scoria which rises upon the surface of the metal by the present mode of melting the ore in large furnaces: but the cinders were produced by the works of the ancients, before the use of the furnace was known. The scruff is a mere scoria, generally destitute of metal, and consisting of a vitreous substance, more or

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less mixed with the impurities carried off with it in its fluid state. The best is used as an ingredient in the manufacture of common green glass; for which purpose it is picked out, and reduced to a fine powder, by large stamping engines; after which the lighter substances are washed away by a stream of water. Sometimes among the scruff, during the process of stamping, are found considerable quantities of granulated iron and ragged lumps, which are called *shot* and *scap iron*. These are separated by the stampers and carried to the forges, to be worked up with the pig-iron.

But the cinders are very different; being not at all vitreous, nor having any transparency like the scruff, but ponderous and opaque, containing a large quantity of iron; and hence, since the modern improvements, were for some time used as a principal material in working the furnaces of this country.

There is no doubt but that these cinders were left by the works called *blomaries*, or *blomary forges*. The process in this was very tedious and elaborate. The bellows were only such as could be blown by the strength of man, and the hammers no other than sledges worked by men's arms, for it is known that the beds of cinders are generally found in places where no stream of water could ever be led to turn a wheel; and the large quantity of iron found in them shews that the blast was not strong enough to extract from the ores more than a small proportion of metal. The work of the present *finery forges*, which perform the first operation of the pig-iron after it comes from the furnaces, appears to bear some resemblance to that of the *blomaries*; only that the bellows and hammers being driven by water, are larger and more powerful; and that

these bring the *pig iron* into a state of malleability, as the others did the *ore*³.

To what æra these blomary cinders belong is a question of some curiosity.

Cæsar says, that the Britons had iron when he was here, and brass, but the latter was imported. The iron they must have made themselves, and this they could not do without leaving *scoria*, or refuse. Hence it may be concluded, that they have been laid here from the earliest ages, and before the time of Cæsar. That considerable quantities were afterwards deposited by the Romans is ascertained by coins, fibulæ, and other things known to be in use with that people, having been frequently found among the cinders⁴.

It is possible that some of the cinders might be made by the Danes, during the short time they were in this country. Both they and the Saxons had too much use for iron and steel not to take advantage of the mines, which had long since been opened, and the works which had for ages been carried on by their predecessors. As little doubt can there be, that they were continued through a long succession of ages after the conquest. By an inquest of the regards of the forest, returned at the justice seat holden as long since as 10 Ed. I. it appears, "that certain wages either in money or iron ore were settled to be paid to the miners, who supplied the King's works with ore." In process of time the King's works were let out to farmers, who paid an annual rent to the crown for them. William Earl of Pembroke, 1602, rented all the ironworks, coal, wood, to make charcoals, &c. in the forest, at the yearly rent of 2433*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* There is therefore little doubt of the blomaries having existed from the earliest times, when the art of making iron from the ore was first found, to

that period when these works were superseded by others more effectual. At what period the use of furnaces was first known, is our next enquiry.

The present method of melting the ore in large furnaces, and running it into massy ingots of pig iron, is a modern improvement, at least not of very remote date. The heaps of scruff which are visible in different parts, point out both the number and situation of the furnaces, which have ever been in this country; and it is probable, that the first in England were erected in this forest, under the tenancy of the Earl of Pembroke; since it may be presumed, that so large a sum as 2433*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* (which in 1612 was a prodigious yearly rent for an individual to pay,) could only be undertaken to be paid, from the inducement of the most sanguine expectations, raised by an extraordinary turn in a trade unknown and unthought of in former ages. In 1613 an information was filed in the Exchequer, on the behalf of the said Earl, against several miners, for digging and carrying away the several materials recited in the lease, to other works; and an order of Court was made, that, in consideration of his Majesty's farmer of the iron-works not being furnished with matter to keep the forges at work, if the ore and cinders should be carried away, therefore the parties, and others accustomed to dig, &c. should of *charity and grace*, &c. be permitted to continue digging and getting the said ore and cinders, so that they carry, or cause the same to be carried, to his Majesty's iron works and forges. Cinders, it is well known, have never been made use of as a material for any other iron works besides furnaces. The word *furnace* is not indeed mentioned in that record; but in the early days of these works, as is the case now with persons little conversant

with iron works, the necessary distinction might not be observed between furnaces and forges⁵.

The ancient works or blomaries, have in early records the name of *forgii*, or *forgiæ errantes*, from their capability of removal from one situation to another. In P. Nicholas's taxation, they are mentioned under the name of *molendin' foler'*. Two were in the forest at that time, belonging to the abbey of Flaxley, and the Prior of Lanthony. "*Bona temporal. Abbis de Flaxl.*" In *Grang. juxta Abbiām unum molend'. foler'. ibidem per annum 10s. 0d.* "*Prior de Lenton. juxta Glouc. percipit de uno molend'. foler'. apud Aylbriton per ann. 0l. 10s. 0d.*" The new names of furnaces and forges, (and sometimes of iron-mills,) distinguished the works, which in their improved state, had so increased the royal income: and that they were furnaces on the same principle as the present, such as are called fineries and chafferies, and all worked by water, cannot be doubted.

In a demise from the crown in 1622 to Harris and Chaloner, "all the ironworks, with the furnaces, forges, &c." are recited, and it was agreed, that the miners should furnish them, with ore for the furnaces, at the same prices they were obliged to find them for the King, when they were worked on his account. Hence it appears, that furnaces and forges, such as are now used for making iron, though since much altered, and improved, were in use early in the reign of James I. and that the scoria or cinders, were then employed in working them. It cannot well be supposed that such powerful works were brought to perfection but by slow degrees, and after some considerable experience. The first projectors could not be aware of the strength required to resist the force of

these furnace fires, and therefore in the early surveys they are described, as “very much cracked,” and ruinous. The works of those days have, indeed, long been silent, and resigned the trade to others better placed and more improved; and the small mounts of scruff to be seen now at the places where they stood, are a lasting evidence, that they were not *going* through many reigns. Upon the whole of these facts, it is a fair conjecture, that the first erection of our modern furnaces in England was about the middle or end of the 16th century, or during the reign of Elizabeth, under whom every art and manufacture was cherished and promoted.

It was before observed, that since the modern improvements, cinders were for some time used as a principal material in working the *furnaces* of this country. For this purpose they differ much in their goodness and value. Some were light and porous, and yielding little iron; others were heavy, and abounding in metal. Of these latter, some were more brittle, and might be broken into small pieces by a slight blow of the hammer, and consequently more easily brought into fusion; whereas others, not at all richer in metal, were more obdurate and intractable, requiring a greater strength of fire to melt them. It is observable, that these differences in the banks of cinders are commonly preserved through the whole of each; and that those found in every respective village or place, have a resemblance; so that whether it be owing to their having been worked from any particular mines, or to any peculiar mode or process in the working of the *blomaries*, the peculiarity seems to have been preserved through the whole time in which the works were going on at the several places. The best ores which are raised in the forest or its neighbourhood are hard to be worked by

themselves; probably owing to the quantities of heterogeneous matters contained in them. A proportion of other ingredients, exempt from these matters, is required to bring them into perfect fusion; for without this, the scoria, which must be freely separated and drawn off, becomes not sufficiently fluid; and the labour to the men is thereby rendered extremely hard to keep the furnaces clear. It seems therefore particularly fortunate for the adventurers who first erected iron furnaces, that they found upon the spot an ingredient ready prepared in the cinders, discharged of all noxious substances, and on that account well fitted to assist in bringing the ores into fusion, and also itself affording a large portion of metal.

The great consumption of cinders necessarily produced a gradual scarcity, and suggested the introduction of Lancashire ores in their room; and these are now found so easy of fusion, and productive of metal, as in some furnaces even to supersede the use of forest ores altogether.

REDUCTION OF IRON ORE.

The modern form of the furnaces, and the mode of employing them for the reduction of the ores are the following:—"The furnaces are between twenty and thirty feet high, built of a gritty stone found in the forest, capable of enduring a fire intense enough to melt and break down almost any other material. The shape is that a crucible, or cone inverted, about seven or eight feet in diameter at the top, to which the approach is by a natural or artificial bank. The process is begun by throwing into the furnace some lighted brushwood, then charcoal, with the ore and fluxing matters, which are usually calcareous and argillaceous stones, sometimes quartz and flints. These materials are thrown in alternately, and the whole covered with

charcoal. The blast is made at a hole about three inches diameter towards the bottom, by two large bellows nearly thirty feet long, which are driven by water, and work by alternate movements. At an orifice somewhat lower, the dross, which separates from the metal in fusion, is let out. Quite at the bottom is another opening, occasionally closed with a plug, through which the metal is let out, upon a bed of sand, to the length of thirty feet, every 24 hours. A large groove is formed on the sand, which serves to convey the metal to several grooves on each side, smaller and shorter. In the former are cast the *sows*, and in the latter the *pigs* of iron; both which are carried to the *finery* and *chafery*. On the hearth of the finery is a large charcoal fire, excited by bellows something smaller than those used at the furnaces. The ends of two or three pigs or sows are put into the finery together, where, softening gradually, the metal is stirred and worked till it run into one mass or lump, which they call *half bloom*. This is taken out, and first submitted to the strokes of sledges, then of a large weighty hammer, which is moved by a water wheel. By this operation it is soon beaten out into a thick, short, square figure. It is then put into the finery again, and worked to the shape of a bar with a square knob at each end. The chafery finishes it into bars of the required shape and size.

It is found by experiment, that the coals of the forest are too much impregnated with sulphur to answer the purpose of blowing the furnaces with complete success. In other parts of the island, where the ore is less mixed with noxious substances, *coke* is made from pitcoal, and thus possessing in a weaker degree the essential principles of charcoal, has been applied with good effect to the fusing of ore. The practice is not altogether unknown in this district, as at Lidney furnace much ore is reduced in this way;

but at this and every other place where pitcoal is used, the iron is allowed to be of inferior tenacity and ductility to that manufactured by means of charcoal; and a proportionate value is allowed it; for when the former is sold for twenty pounds per ton, the latter will produce twenty-four.

QUARRIES.

Stones of different qualities and for different uses are dug in the forest. Mill stones are found at Stanton, paving stones at Bromley quarry, near Ruerdean hill, and other places, particularly at Blakeney. In colour they are generally of a dark white or reddish brown. Exposed to the air they stand perfectly well, but often scale when used internally for floors and kept in the dry.

ROADS.

The roads through the forest, and also through part of Awre, for the purpose of conveying his Majesty's timber to the Severn, were formerly repaired at the expence of the crown, but 36 G. III. an Act of Parliament was passed, by which his Majesty was exonerated from all future repairs, on advancing 10,645*l.* and enabling certain commissioners to make the following roads. One from Mitchel Dean to Colford. A second from Little Dean, by the Speech-house, to the same place. And a third from the extremity of Awre, (which also extends to Pyrton Passage and Gatcomb,) to the same place. These great roads have opened a convenient and highly agreeable communication through a beautiful country to Monmouth and South Wales, and relieved the crown from the annual expenditure of nearly 450*l.* which was no way conducive to the preservation of the forest, nor much to the convenience of the public.

THE GENERAL APPEARANCE

Of the Forest is beautiful and picturesque, finely broken with deep vallies and rising grounds. The majestic oak, interspersed with beech, hanging birch trees, hawthorns, hollies, and low wood, adorn the landscape with rich, verdant, and various foliage. Springs issue in copious streams, tinged with the colour of the ochreous beds, through which they pass, and strongly impregnated with iron⁷. One in particular, which rises about a mile west of Gunn's Mills,(211) after having made its way through a small grove, falls into an artificial square bason, five feet deep, with steps leading down to it, and large enough to bathe in. It is called St. Anthony's Well, and has long been famed for the cure of cutaneous disorders. The quantity of water furnished by this spring, is considerable enough to supply the adjoining paper-mills, and the iron-works at Flaxley, a little below, and it is said never to decrease in the driest seasons.

The soil of the Forest is various, but generally inclining to a red marl, congenial to the growth of oak, but perhaps less so to that of corn. The styre apple is the boast of this district, from which a cyder is made of great strength, and, in the opinion of some, perceptibly partaking a chalybeate flavour.

OFFICERS OF THE FOREST.

LORD WARDEN. The Right Hon. FREDERICK AUGUSTUS, Earl of Berkeley. This office, and that of Constable of the Castle of St. Briavels, are held by patent during the King's pleasure. He appoints six deputies and the keepers; whose conduct he superintends, in regard to deer only, but has nothing to do with the timber. No salary is annexed to the office.

DEPUTY WARDENS. Sir Berkeley William Guise,

Bart. Sir T. Crawley Boevey, Bart. Roynon Jones, Esq. Edmund Probyn, Esq. Joseph Pyrke, Esq.; and the sixth is vacant by the death of the late Maynard Colchester, Esq.

This office is held during the pleasure of the Lord Warden, and the duty of the Deputy Wardens is to preside as Judges at the Miner's Court, and the Hundred Court of St. Briavels, for the recovery of debts and other purposes. No salary or fee is annexed to this appointment.

VERDERORS. Edmund Probyn, Esq. Roynon Jones, Esq. Joseph Pyrke, Esq. and Sir Berkeley William Guise, Bart.

These are chosen for life by the freeholders of the county at large, and their duty is to preserve the vert and venison of the forest. Each is entitled to a buck and doe in the season.

STEWARD OF THE SWANIMOTE AND ATTACHMENT COURTS. John Matthews, Esq.

CHIEF FORESTER IN FEE, AND BOW-BEARER. Charles Wyndham, Esq.

This office is held by the family of Wyndham by inheritance; in virtue of which he claims to be entitled to the left shoulder of all bucks and does killed within the forest; also to ten fee-bucks and ten fee-does annually, to be there killed and taken of his own free will and pleasure, with licence to hawk, hunt, fish, and fowl within the said forest. As Bow-bearer, he is to attend the King with a bow and arrow, and six men cloathed in green, when his Majesty shall be pleased to hunt in the Forest.

OTHER FORESTERS IN FEE. Corporation of Gloucester; Jane Clark; T. Foley, Esq.; Heirs of Ralph Colster, Esq.; Heirs of Thomas Williams; Heirs of John Ayres; Heirs of Sir Robert Gunning, Knt.; Heirs of Henry Yearsley.

These succeed by inheritance, but no emoluments are annexed to the office.

WOODWARD of Stanton, Wm. Hall, Lord Visc. Gage.

Ditto of Bicknor, the same.

Ditto of the Bearse, C. Wyndham, Esq.

Ditto of Mitcheldean, Maynard Colchester, Esq.

Ditto of the Lea Bayley, Ditto.

Ditto of Blakeney, Sir Thomas Crawley Boevey.

Ditto of Ruerdeane, Jane Clarke.

Ditto of Abbenhall, Edm. Probyn, Esq.

Ditto of the Blyths Bayley, John Beale, Esq.

The office of Woodward is to watch and preserve the timber, woods, and underwoods, and to present all offences relating thereto at the Forest Courts. They claim lops and tops of all timber and other trees felled within their bailiwicks, also all windfalls and dotard trees within the same, and house-bote for repairing the Woodward's mansion-house.

SIX KEEPERS, who live in their lodges in the respective walks. Their duty is to preserve the vert and venison of the forest, for which they receive each a salary of 22*l.* per annum, with other emoluments, which amount in the whole to more than 800*l.* or about 135*l.* to each, besides the lodge, land, and right of common.

WATCHMAN and SWORN DEPUTY KEEPER. His duty is to detect wood-stealers, and assist the keepers. He has a salary of 10*l.* per annum, and a house, but no casual fees or emoluments, except the fine on conviction of offenders.

SURVEYOR GENERAL. The Right Hon. Sylvester Lord Glenbervie, who was appointed by the King January 5, 1803, on the death of John Robinson, Esq.

GAVELLER. George Cæsar Hopkinson, Esq.

This office is held by letters patent of his Majesty, under the title of Keeper of the Gawles above and under

the wood, riding forester, and ale conner within the Forest of Dean, during the King's pleasure. His duty is to watch the King's rights in the mines of coal and other mines, or the compositions paid in lieu of them. He has no fixed salary, but what arises from fines, fees, or compositions, which after paying a deputy, amounts to about one hundred pounds a year.

REGARDERS. By the old forest laws there should be twelve, but in this forest there is not one.

CONSERVATOR. Roynon Jones, Esq.

His office is to take care of the waste lands inclosed pursuant to the statute of 20 Car. II. and of the woods and underwoods there growing. The appointment is in the Lords of the Treasury, with a clear yearly salary of 64*l.* 16*s.*

Of the several officers above enumerated, few can be considered otherwise than as honorary, except the surveyor general, and his six under keepers, to whose hands the whole management of the forest in every particular, except the mines and coal, has been for many years confided.

COURTS.

There are three courts properly belonging to forests, namely, the Court of Attachments or Woodmote, the Court of Swanimote, and the Justice Seat, or Court of Chief Justice in Eyre. To this forest another court belonged, called the Mine-law Court, held by the deputy wardens and deputy constables, for the regulation of all matters relating to the mines, and settling disputes and questions between the miners; but for several years past this court has been discontinued.

These courts are generally held at the King's lodge, or Speech-house, situate nearly in the centre of the forest.

XVI. BOTLOE HUNDRED.

CXCI. BROMSBOROUGH *anciently* BRUNMEBERGE,

Is a parish about eight miles in circumference, containing 1100 acres, and distant 14 miles N. W. from Gloucester; at the extremity of the county, and adjoining to Worcestershire. The land in general is a deep red sand, better adapted to the production of rye, and the inferior sorts of grain, than wheat or beans. Some rich meadows however are found on the banks of the Glynch, a rivulet which intersects the parish. The soil is also favourable to the production of many fruits, and particularly the Old-bury and other pears.

The road from Gloucester to Ledbury leads through this parish.

The etymology of the name is with great probability supposed to be *bryme* Sax. famous, and *berg*, a town, or *beorgh*, a castle.

In Domesday survey, Radulfus de Todení is the proprietor of Brunmeberge, in Botelau hundred, containing five hides. In the descendants of this family it probably continued till it passed to the Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick, by marriage with a female of the Todení's. In the reign of Richard the second, a collateral branch of the family of Bromwiche, of Castle Bromwich, co. Warwick, became and continued possessors through several centuries. Early in the last century it passed by purchase from Edmund Bromwich, Esq. to John Hyett, Esq. of Gloucester, and soon after, in the same way was transferred to Walter

Yate, Esq. From him it passed by will, after a beneficial term of six years to John Yate, Esq. barrister at law, to John Yate, only son of Charles Yate, Esq. of Arlingham, co. Gloucester. He died unmarried, and the property devolved to Robert Dobyns, Esq. the heir general of Walter Yate, Esq. being the grandson of his sister, Catherine Unett. He assumed the name of Yate, and dying in 1765, left two sons and four daughters by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Gorges, of Eye, co. Hereford. Robert Gorges Dobyns Yate, the eldest son succeeded to the manor and estates in this and other places. On his death in 1785, he left two sons and two daughters under age, by his wife Annabella Christiana, only daughter of William Honeywood, Esq. of Maling Abbey, co. Kent, and sister to Sir John Honeywood, Bart. Walter Honeywood Yate, Esq. the eldest son, is now lord of the manor, and proprietor of about half the parish.

The family mansion now called *Bromsberrow-place*, was built on the site of *Hooke-house* by Robert Dobyns Yate, Esq. and finished in its present elegant style by the late Robert Gorges Dobyns Yate, Esq.

GROVE-HOUSE and RUSSELS-END belong to William Brooke, Esq. in whose ancestors they have for many years been vested.

BROWNS-END is the property of Mrs. Webb, late of Mrs. Nanfan, relict of John Nanfan, Esq.

The HILL, and another estate are the property of Lord Somers.

The BROOK-END has long been in the family of Stone, and is now vested in Sam. Stone, Esq. resident in Ireland.

WOOD-END is a small hamlet or place in this parish.

Seven freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 80—138—235. Houses inhabited, 40.

The benefice is a rectory in the Forest deanery. Walter Honeywood Yate, Esq. is patron, and Henry Gorges Dobyns Yate, LL. D. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is an ancient structure, but has been very much modernized by some late reparations. It consists of a nave only, with a battlemented tower at the west end. A burial chapel, adjoining the chancel, and appropriated to the family, was built by Walter Yate, Esq. in 1725. By the care of the present incumbent, some curious painted glass has been preserved and arranged in the windows of this chapel.

In P. N. tax. The church of Brymmesbarewe, 10*l*.

In the King's books, 7*l*. 15*s*. 0*d*.

CXCII. DIMMOCK, DYMÖCK, *anciently* DIMOCK,

Is a parish containing 3500 acres, distant four miles N. from Newent, and twelve N. W. from Gloucester. The soil is generally of sand, in some places inclining to loam, and applied in about the proportion of a third part to the production of wheat, barley, and peas. Eight hundred acres are in wood, and the rest in pasture. Apple and pear trees are planted in the open fields, and the oak and elm grow in great luxuriance. The small Ryeland sheep are bred here, and it is said, that King Edward selected the sheep which he presented to the Spanish monarch from this parish⁹.

The name is derived by Atkyns from the Saxon *Dim*, dark, and *Ac*, oak, as giving the character of the place in ancient days, when it was covered, in a great measure, with trees of that kind.

This parish is intersected by the canal that leads to He-

reford from Gloucester, and by the Leden in its course to the Severn.

The buildings were formerly much more numerous and extensive than at present, as may be inferred from the names of several streets now retained. In the 10th Hen. III. the inhabitants had the privilege of markets and fairs, which are now totally disused.

Near the turnpike-road, on the southern borders of the parish, is an elevation called Castle Tump, evidently the work of art. It is said that one of the Bohuns, Earls of Hereford, built a castle here, but of that no vestiges are remaining, and this eminence is too small for a building of that kind. It was probably thrown up during the civil wars, to serve the purpose of an *arx exploratoria*, or place of observation; a provision absolutely necessary in a country so much concealed in wood. Sir John Winter had a garrison here for the King, which, it is not unlikely, might have been the old moated mansion, on the west side of the road, and separated from Castle Tump by not more than two hundred yards.

The manor is part of the ancient demesne of the crown, and was held by King Edward before the conquest. It is recorded in Domesday as containing 20 hides, and a wood 3 miles long, and 1 broad. It came afterwards to Earl William and his son Roger, on whose death without issue, it came to Roger, Earl of Hereford, who gave the demesne thereof, and half the wood, to the abbey of Flaxley. In 1291, five carucates, with a water-mill, are recorded to have belonged to that abbey. The manor is said to have belonged to the families of Clifford and Grandison. In 1454, Sir Walter Devereux, and Elizabeth his wife, claimed four parts of the manor, which were vested in

1565 in Walter, Viscount Hereford, who left them in settlement to Lettice his widow, afterwards wife of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, whose right was proved in 1581. Giles Forster was proprietor in 1608, and soon after Sir John Winter of Lydney, from whom it was taken by Parliament during the usurpation, and sold to Evan Seys, 1657, and by him resold to Edward Pye, merchant, who left it by will to Edward Pye Chamberlain, Esq. 1712, and his son transferred the mansion-house called the *Boyce*, with the manor and estate, to Anne Cam, spinster, by purchase, from whom they passed by will to John Moggridge, Esq. of Bradford, co. Wilts, and from him by gift in his life-time, to his son, John Moggridge, Esq. who resides at the mansion-house, and is lord of the manor of Great Dymock.

The customs of this manor, which were enrolled in the reign of Elizabeth, and investigated by a committee of the House of Commons in 1776, are in some respects peculiar. Among them are the following:—The ancient demesne tenants hold to them, and the heirs of their body, with reversion and remainder thereof in fee to the lord. For licence of alienation are paid one years rent, by the name of *relief*, and 2s. fee to the steward for a copy. In case of any tenant being attainted by law, the lands do not escheat to the lord, nor the King, but descend to the next heir. If a tenant die seized without issue of his body then the lord shall have the land to him and his heirs. The widow is entitled to the third part of her dower, against the heir and the lord. The tenants are bound to do such services in war, as have heretofore been accustomed.

The parish is divided into five tythings, which are in-

cluded in three divisions. 1. *WOODEND* division takes in the tythings of *Flaxley* and *Gamage-hall*.

The *Boyce*, with several other estates, belong to John Moggridge, Esq.

The *Whitehouse* was the property of George Pritchard, Esq. of Hope-end, near Ledbury, co. Hereford, whose only daughter was the wife of Henry Lambert, Esq. by whom she left one daughter, married to Sir Henry Tempest, Bart. who in her right is now the proprietor of this and various other estates. In this house was born John Kyrle, the *MAN OF ROSS*¹⁰.

The *Old Grange* was part of the ancient property of the abbey of Flaxley. At the dissolution it was granted to Sir Anthony Kingstone. Thos. Wenman purchased it in 1582, from which family it descended to Wenman Wynniatt, Esq. and is now the property of the Rev. Reginald Wynniatt, A. M. (33) who is also lord of the manor of Little Dymock.

Gamage hall was anciently held by the families of de Gamage, Pembruge, and Moreton, and was late the property of Richard Serjeant, Gent.

This was the manor house of Little Dymock, from which it was detached early in the last century, by sale, with the reservation of the right of holding courts there. This manor has the same jurisdiction within itself as the greater manor.

Other properties of considerable extent have for many generations been vested in the family of Hill, and are now held by different branches of it.

2. *RYLAND* division includes the tythings of *Ryton* and *Ockington*.

John Thackwell, Esq. possesses the *Linch*, and other es-

tates. He was the surviving residuary legatee of Mrs. Cam, and by that means succeeded to a large property not disposed of in her will.

Ketford Farm, with several other estates, belong to W. H. Yate, Esq. (191)

Great Lintridge, and another estate called *Ketford*, are the property of Henry Lambert, Esq.

Other proprietors are William Baylis, Esq. John Hartland, William Brooke, Esq. &c.

3. LEADINGTON division comprehends that part of the parish which lies on the banks of the Leden.

Great Netherton, with other estates to a considerable amount, belong to John Thackwell, Esq.

Rowshill, *Wincross*, and other estates, are the property of the Rev. Reginald Wynniatt.

The *Green House* is the property, and has been the residence of the family of Hankins for many generations.

Other competent properties belong to the families of Cole, Hiett, Hodges, Hooper, &c.

This parish is said to have been the birth-place of Roger Dimoc, a learned Dominican, who died 1390; and of Robert Burhill, D. D. in the seventeenth century.

Thirty-four freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 1000—1116—1223.

The benefice is vicarial, in the Forest deanery. It has received an annual stipend from the impropriator, which has been raised from 40*l.* to 60*l.* According to the return of the commissioners appointed to ascertain the first-fruits, the vicar was then entitled to vicarial tythes. It belonged, as appears from P. N. tax. to the priory of Newent, in 1291, and in the reign of Hen. IV. was transferred to the college of Fotheringhay, which Henry had founded. At the dissolution of religious houses, it was

granted to Sir Richard Lee, at the yearly rent of 40s. The family of Winter held the rectory in the seventeenth century, till it was confiscated by Parliament, amongst other property, and sold to Wycherley and Milward. Sir Orlando Humphreys was afterwards impropriator, and sold it to George Pritchard, Esq. from whom it descended, as before, to Sir Henry Tempest, Bart. with the advowson.

Part of the tythes have been sold to several of the landholders by the present impropriator.

Evan Evans, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, consists of a nave, of large dimensions, with a transept, unequal in height, and not opposite. The south side has some Saxon, or early Norman windows, which ascertain its date; modern improvements having nearly removed all other marks of antiquity. The tower is massive, and supports a spire of obtuse form. In the north transept is an arcade or recess, which once contained an image of the patron saint.

In P. N. tax. the church of Dymmock is recorded as belonging to the prior of Newent, and taxed at 26*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* In the King's books, 9*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*

CXCIII. KEMPLEY, KEMPLEYE, *anciently* CHENEPELEI,

Is a parish containing about 750 acres of stiff red clay and loam, peculiarly fruitful, and applied nearly in equal proportions to pasture and arable. The fields are chiefly planted with fruit trees, at such a distance from each other as not to obstruct the cultivation of corn. The soil being deep, is productive of the oak and elm in great luxuriance. The church is distant fifteen miles N. W. from Gloucester.

Roger de Laci held Chenepelai of the King at the time of the survey. Henry de Grey, in the reign of Rich. I. and his descendants till 1399. John Abrahall was proprietor in 1464, and William Pigot, 1539. Anne, sole heiress of Henry his grandson, carried it by marriage to Henry Finch, of the Winchelsea family, by whose grandson, John, it was sold to Sir Thomas Howe, Knt. third son of John Howe, Esq. of Compton Abdale, who died without issue. It was afterwards purchased by Reginald Pyndar, Esq. lord of the manor 1711. His son Thomas succeeded, and died 1722. Reginald Pyndar Lygon, Esq. of Maddersfield, co. Worcester, (which latter name he has assumed,) is the present lord of the manor, and proprietor of more than two-thirds of the parish.

The manerial house is large, and appears from the date and armorial bearings carved in some of the apartments, to have been built in 1610, by Henry Finch, Esq. The sharp pediments and bay windows mark the style of that age. It is now used as a farm-house.

The only estate of consequence, independent of the manor, belongs to Dan. Hulbert, Gent. besides which, other small properties belong to Messrs. Thackwell, Williams, Cummins, and Wynniatt.

Lands in this parish were formerly held by lease of the Hospital of St. Bartholomew, in Gloucester, at a rent of three cranocs (*half quarter*) of wheat and two quarters of oats.

Seven freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 180—257—218. Houses inhabited, 49.

The benefice is a vicarage in the Forest deanery, endowed with the impropriate tythes of the whole parish, except Prior's Court, which is charged with the repairs of the chancel. It is held under the Hospital of St. Kathe-

rine in Ledbury, and has been from a very early period, as appears from the entry in P. N. tax. "*Ecclia de Kempeley est Hospit' de Led.*" The Dean and Chapter of Hereford, as trustees of the hospital, are the patrons, and R. D. Squire, A.M. is incumbent.

The church is small, having only a nave, divided from the chancel by a heavy arch, with Saxon mouldings, and a door-case in the same style. The spire is low, and covered with shingles.

Value in P. N. tax. 8*l.*

Value in King's books, 5*l.* 6*s.* 5½*d.*

CXCIV. NEWENT, *anciently* NOENT,

Is a parish and market-town, distant eight miles N. W. from Gloucester. More than 4000 acres are comprehended within the parochial boundaries, the soil of which is various. In general it is a light sand inclining to red, better adapted to arable than pasture, of which however there is some of a superior quality, as well as excellent orcharding. By Leland and others, the name is said to signify *New Inn*, being, when the communication was first opened by this way into Wales, a single house. Others were afterwards erected, till it became a town.

The *Ell*, a rivulet, runs through the north part, and drives several mills before it falls into the Leden.

Newent appears to have been formerly a place of considerable importance, and so large as to have had nine streets and lanes. Ancient writings confirm the account of its having been a borough town, governed by a bailiff. William White is recorded as the last officer, towards the end of the 17th century. A house now dilapidated, retains the name of the Boothall; and Woeful Hill, in the

hamlet of Bowlesdon, is by tradition said to be the place where criminals were executed.

Newent, in its present state, is a small irregular town, with a few good houses, but the greater part are poor and mean. A shorter communication, which is now making by means of a new turnpike road over Gorstley common to Hereford, will probably much increase its consequence, and add to its improvement. The market is held on Thursday; and four fairs, viz. Wednesday before Easter and Whitsunday, first of August, and Friday after the 8th of September.

There was anciently an *Alien Priory* here. King William the Conqueror, at the instance of Roger of Montgomery, gave this manor to the abbot and convent of Cormeile, in Normandy, who thereupon sent over a prior and some Benedictine monks, and it became a cell to that foreign monastery. When, during the wars with France, this alien priory was seized by the King, it was farmed at 190 marks a year, and after the suppression of these houses, was granted by Hen. IV. and Hen. V. to the collegiate church of Fodringhey, co. Northampton, and as parcel thereof, 1 Edw. VI. to Sir Richard Lee. It was afterwards sold to Arnold, and next to Sir William Wintour, from whose descendant it passed by purchase to an ancestor of the present proprietor, the Hon. Andrew Foley, youngest son of the late Thomas Lord Foley, created Baron 1776.

In P. N. tax. “*Bona temporalia P'or de Newent in Epatu Heref. summa 46l. 9s. 0½d.*”

Very little remains of the old building to ascertain its site, except a gateway.

A person of the name of Horne was burnt in the yard

belonging to the priory, for supposed heresy, in the reign of the bigotted Mary.

TYTHINGS AND HAMLETS. 1. NEWENT. In the town are resident Francis Lawson, Esq.; James de Visme, Esq.; John Moggridge, Esq.; (who have considerable estates in other counties,) and other gentlemen of fortune.

Nellfield's farm is the property of Mr. J. Beale.

John Careless, Gent. has an estate in this tything.

2. COMPTON tything takes in Carswall, formerly a distinct manor, belonging to Roger de Laci, and held of him by Odo. It afterwards came to the Pauncefote family, and is now the property of Sir George Pauncefote, Bart. of East-Stoke, co. Nott.¹¹.

Compton and Court Orchard, once the property of the Brays, of Barrington, now of Mrs. Jones, (relict of the late Charles Jones, Esq.) and Edward Bearcroft, Esq. son of the late Edward Bearcroft, Esq. Chief Justice of Chester. He married a sister of Mrs. Jones, and co-heiress of the late Mr. Rogers, of Okle, in this parish, who purchased the estate of the Brays.

Waters, or Athelord's Place, or the Scar, formerly belonging to Mr. Dobyns, afterwards to Mr. Sargeant, now to Mr. Hankins.

Hays, or Hege, as in Domesday, formerly the property of the Walls, afterwards of Mr. Pritchard, of Hope-end, near Ledbury, now of Sir Henry Tempest, Bart. by marriage with his daughter(192).

Stardens, annexed, with other considerable estates in this tything, to the manor.

Ford-house estate is the property of John Wood, Gent.

Waterdine, late the property of John Pitt, Esq. M.P. of

Gloucester, is now vested in John Wood, Gent. of the Fordhouse, by purchase.

Callow-hill belongs to Mr. Woodward.

3. MAULSWICK, contains *Okeley Clifford*, *Okeley Pritchard*, and *Okeley Grandison*; which are not always distinguished in the old records. The family of Rogers were proprietors of *Okeley Clifford* at the beginning of last century, whose representatives, Mrs. Jones and Edw. Bearcroft, Esq. are the present owners of more than half the property of this tything.

Wyndhams, with other considerable property, belongs to the Hon. And. Foley.

Other proprietors are Miss Chinn, J. Wood, James Cummins, &c.

4. CUGLEY. A good house and estate, formerly belonging to the Woodwards, afterwards to the family of Chinn, has lately been sold by Ed. Chinn, Esq. to — Fowke, Esq. of Tewkesbury.

Other proprietors are, Samuel Draper, Gent. Rev. Wm. Beale, W. Hartland, and James Cummins.

Woods of considerable extent in this tything belong to the lord of the manor.

5. BOULESDON gave name to a family, who held it from 1475 for several generations. It belonged to the Porters in 1558, and to the family of Nourse at the beginning of last century, from whom it passed by purchase to Mr. J. Nourse Morse, who is now lord of this manor, and a considerable proprietor.

Other proprietors are, — Grosvenor, Esq.; — Wyndham, Esq. &c.

In this tything are two coal-pits, lately sunk at the expence of several subscribers. The depth to the coal is forty-one yards; the stratum, between four and five feet;

about seven tons a day are brought up; and 12s. per ton is the price at the mouth of the pit.

6. KILCOT, late the property of Mr. Nourse, now belongs to Mr. Morse, who holds a court-leet. A chapel, dedicated to St. Hilary, stood formerly on the edge of Gorstley, but no traces of the building now remain; the scite, however, is recognized under the name of 'Saint Hilly's Nap, or Tump.'

At YARTLEDON-hill (now called *May-hill*, on account of the festive games celebrated there on May-day¹²) is a place called the Glass-house, and many entries appear in the register of persons buried from the Glass-house. Hence an opinion has been taken up, that a glass-manufactory was once established here; but it is conceived, without foundation. There does not appear a single advantage arising from the nature of the situation, likely to induce a manufacturer, to try the experiment, nor are there any remains of cinders, rubbish, &c. to give colour to the tradition. In early times, when glass was not common, it might be sufficient to fix the name on the first farm house that happened to enjoy the improvement of glazed windows.

Part of Gorstley common is leased out in small inclosures, to various tenants, by the lord.

The tything contains a great deal of woodland.

In this parish was born John Lightfoot, A. M. the celebrated botanist¹³.

One hundred and nine freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 1100—1560—2354. Houses inhabited, 459.

The benefice is a vicarage, in the Forest deanery, endowed with great tythes. An ancestor of the Foley family made the grant of all the tythes, except those of

Yartledon woods. The Hon. Andrew Foley is patron ; and John Foley, A. M. incumbent.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is spacious and handsome, and by the reparations made in 1679, the interior has lost all vestiges of antiquity. The roof of the nave is sustained by screws, there being no pillars ; and over the porch is a lofty steeple, with six bells, and measuring 153 feet from the ground. The top of the spire was blown down in 1662, and the whole roof of the nave fell in, after divine service had been concluded, on Sunday, January 18, 1673.

Dr. Crayster, who died vicar of this church 1737, left by will a valuable and extensive library, for the sole benefit of his successors.

In P. N. tax. the church of Newent, with the chapel of Panteley, 26*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

The vicar's portion is not worth 4*l.*

In the King's books (discharged) 23*l.*

CXCV. OXENHALL, EXENHALE, *olim* HORSENEHAL,

Is a parish of moderate size, eleven miles N. W. from Gloucester. The soil is in general a rich sandy loam, in some places inclining to clay. It contains 960 acres of meadow, pasture, and arable, besides 400 acres of wood land. About a moiety of the ploughed land is what is called rye land, and the other part wheat land, or bastard land ; and in all, the apple and pear are planted and grow with great luxuriance. Of timber trees, the elm and the oak thrive abundantly.

A stream called Ellbrook, which rises in Herefordshire, runs through this parish, and falls into the Leden, at Leden Court.

This manor, of three hides, anciently belonged to Roger de Laci. William de Evers had charter of free warren 1252, and the same family possessed it till 1287. The family of Grandison held it for some years, and the manor came afterwards by marriage to the Earls of Ormond. About 1462, James Earl of Wiltshire was seized of it, and on his attainder, it was granted, with the advowson, to Sir Walter Devereux. The manor again reverted to the crown, and was granted to the Duke of Northumberland, on whose attainder, it came once more to the crown, and was mortgaged for money borrowed of the citizens of London, 1545. It was the property of Joan, widow of — Arrowsmith, and daughter of Thomas Brook, Esq. 1548. William Pigot, Esq. died seized of Oxenball and Kempley (193), whose grandson Henry left Anne, his only daughter and heiress, married to Henry Finch, Esq.; who, in her right, was seized of this manor, and at his death, 1631, left an only son, Francis, whose son, by Jane, daughter of Dr. Thornborough, Bishop of Worcester, succeeded to the manor and property. From this family they passed to the Foleys, and the Honorable Andrew Foley is now lord of the manor, and proprietor of the whole parish, except a few small estates belonging to Sir G. Pauncefoot, Mr. Perkins, and Mr. Hook.

More than twenty tons of iron a week are said to have been worked, some years since, at a furnace in this parish, which is now out of blast.

Six freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 200—202—313. Houses inhabited, 69.

The benefice is a vicarage in the Forest deanery. The impropriation formerly belonged to the preceptory of Dinmore, co. Heref. a cell to the priory of St. John of Jerusalem,—“*Ecclesia de Exenhale, hospitel' sunt ibi recta-*

res."—P. N. tax. The family of Colchester had been for many years impropriators, but they have lately sold their interest to Samuel Beale, Esq. of Upton-upon-Severn. Ninety acres of glebe belong to the impropriation. The Rev. Thomas Davies is incumbent, who receives 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* a year, in lieu of vicarial tythes.

The church, dedicated to St. Anne, is small, with a spire at the west end.

No value in P. N. tax. In the King's books (discharged) 9*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*

CXCVI. PAUNTLEY, *anciently* PANTELIE,

Is a small parish, 11 miles N.W. from Gloucester, separated from Worcestershire on the N.E. by the Leden. The soil, in the elevated parts of the parish, is a red sand, formerly much cultivated with rye, and therefore called rye land. The lower part inclines to clay, and for a similar reason is called wheat land. The remainder, which lies on the Leden, is a red clay, and meadow. The whole parish contains about 1000 acres, five-sixths of which are in tillage, and a considerable quantity in wood. The ploughed fields are generally planted with fruit trees.

Ansfrid de Cormelus is recorded as holding one hide and a half in Pantelie. Walter de Paunteleye died seized of an estate called Paunteleye, 1248, whose daughter by marriage carried it into the family of Solers, a female descendant of whom, Maud de Solers, daughter and heir of John de Solers, Hope, co. Hereford, by marriage brought this estate into the family of de Wittington, or de Vyteinton. The manor appears, by the sheriff's return, 1281, to have been in William de Whytington. By the inquisition taken 1311, William, son of the last, was found to be the

next heir of John, son of Thomas de Solers, then twenty-four years of age, in whom the manor and estates were probably united. The family of Whittington were proprietors from this period till the year 1546. Richard de Whittington, the celebrated Lord Mayor of London, was the younger son of William. His eldest brother Robert was sheriff of the county of Gloucester in 1402 and 1407. Thomas, the last of the name, died in 1546, and left six daughters coheiresses, Blanch, married to John Saint Aubin; Anne, married to Brice Berkeley; Jane, to Roger Bodenham; Margaret, to Thomas Throgmorton; Alice, to — Nanfant; and Elizabeth, to Sir Giles Pool, of Saperton, to whom four shares of the manor were conveyed, 1588. Sir Henry Pool, his son, was lord in 1608, and died in 1616. The manor came afterwards to Henry Somerset, Esq. whose son Edward Maria Somerset was lord at the beginning of the last century. It was transferred by purchase from Lady Somerset to Henry Scudamore, Esq. of Cannon's Bridge, near Hereford, who was succeeded by his son, Henry Blackford Scudamore, Esq. He died and left his shares in this manor and estates to his widow, Tamor Scudamore, for life, and at her death to be divided among the children. Since his death the whole of the estates has been purchased by Mrs. Scudamore.

In this and some neighbouring parishes, a custom, intended to prevent the smut in wheat, in some respects resembling the Scotch *Beltein*¹⁴, prevails. On the eve of twelfth day all the servants of every particular farmer assemble together in one of the fields that has been sown with wheat. At the ends of twelve lands they make 12 fires of straw in a row; around one of which, made larger than the rest, they drink a chearful glass of cider to their

master's health, success to the future harvest, and then returning home, they feast on cakes made of carraways, &c. soaked in cyder, which they claim as a reward for their past labours in sowing the grain. This seems to resemble a custom of the ancient Danes, who, in their addresses to their deities emptied on every invocation a cup, in honor of them. NIORDI et FREIÆ memoria poculis recalebatur, annua ut ipsis contingeret felicitas, frugumque et reliquæ annonæ uberrimus proventus. Worm. Monum. Dan. lib. i. p. 28.

Other proprietors are the Hon. Andrew Foley, Esq. Sir H. Tempest, Bart. Samuel Beale, Esq. Thomas Wood, Gent. Mr. Hook, Miss Chinn, and Mrs. Cook.

Four freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 115—87—215. Houses inhabited, 41.

The benefice is a vicarage in Forest deanery, in the patronage of the impropriator; but no presentation has been made for several years, on account of the smallness of the income, and the curate has been appointed by the Bishop. In 1292, it was a chapel annexed to Newent, as in P. N. tax. (194). The abbey of Cormeille was possessed of the advowson of the chapel 1272. On the seizure of alien priories, the rectory and advowson of the vicarage were granted to the college of Fotheringhay, co. Northampton, and after the general suppression were granted to Sir Rd. Lee, 1547. Charles Welch, Esq. of Evesham, co. Worcester, is impropriator, who pays 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* to the curate. Thomas Davies, clerk, is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, consists of a nave and chancel, with a low embatteled tower. The south door is circular, with chevron and billeted mouldings. Many of the families of Whittington, Poole, and Pauncefoot, are buried in the chancel.

In the King's books (discharged) clear yearly value of 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

CXCVII. RUDFORD, RODESFORD, *anciently* RUDEFORD.

Is a small parish, containing 600 acres, bounded on the n. by the Leden, distant four miles w from Gloucester. The soil is a deep red loam, and applied nearly in equal proportions to arable and pasture. The meadows on the banks of the Leden are fertile, but subject to frequent inundations. Cyder and perry fruits of excellent quality grow here. The name is generally derived from *Rude*, Sax. *ford*, or the Red Ford, from the color of the soil.

Madock was proprietor of Rudeford, containing two hides, under Edward the Confessor and William the Conqueror. William II. gave Rodesford to the abbey of Gloucester, in the time of abbot Serlo. Winebald de Balun, a great Baron, gave the manor of Rudford to the same church, 1126¹⁵. At the dissolution, it was granted to the dean and chapter of Gloucester, 1542. From Mr. Edw. Holder, the former lessee, the estates passed to the Guise family, but the manor was reserved.

The estates in lease to Sir B. W. Guise, Bart. comprehend about two-thirds of Rudford.

Other proprietors are Mr. William Holder, John Spiers, and Thomas Matthews.

HIGHLEADEN is a hamlet of this parish, but in the hundred of Dudstan and King's Barton. More than half the property belongs to Sir William Guise.

Other proprietors are the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Southwell, and Robert Canning, Esq. in right of their wives (246), the chapter of Gloucester, Mr. William King, &c.

In digging the canal there were found in this hamlet several human skeletons, supposed to have been buried here in the time of the civil wars. A garrison was placed at Highleadon house, under Colonel Min, on the side of the King. Corbet, in his *History of the Military Government of Gloucester*, relates, p. 69, the issue of a skirmish here, as follows:—"When we drew thence (from Tainton) our men beheld a faire body of horse at Highleadon, whereon a forlorn hope of our musketeers, with 20 horse, advanced upon them, and found their horse and foot drawn out at Highleadon house. These were to joyn with Colonell Min, who at that instant was marched out of Newent with a purpose to fall on Hartpury garrison. Here at the first some few of our horse gave the charge, hurried the enemy, and beat up their ambuscadoes. Then they drew out their whole garrison, and fell on; their horse did not stand to it; but with their foot there was an hot skirmish almost an houre. And though our seconds were slow in comming up, yet did the forlorn hope drive them from hedge to hedge, and after awhile our body comming on, beat them in, and pursued them up to the very house, took some few prisoners, and came off with the losse only of two men."

Six freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 106—106—165. Houses inhabited, 28.

The benefice is a rectory in Forest deanery, in the patronage of the chapter of Gloucester, and John Smith, D. D. is incumbent, who is also Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, and a Prebendary of the cathedral of Gloucester.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a small building, and consists of a nave only, and chancel, with a low tower at the west end. The whole building, excepting a few

pointed arches, of modern introduction, exhibits a fine specimen of the circular Saxon, or early Norman style. The south door is ornamented with the chevron or zig-zag moulding ; and though the four windows of the chancel, as well as the east window, have been altered and reduced in size ; yet the old circular form is still visible. The arch which forms the entrance to the chancel is of the same style, resting on Saxon pilasters, with capitals finished with ziz-zag mouldings. On the side of the altar is a niche or cupboard, for holding the materials belonging thereto¹⁶. The building seems to have been the work of the 12th century, not far distant from the period when the manor was given to the abbey.

In P. N. tax. the church of Rodeford, with the chapel of Witledene¹⁷, 8*l*.

In the King's books, 10*l*.

CXCVIII. TANTON, TEYNTON, *olim* TETINTON,

Is a parish of considerable extent, containing 1400 acres, five miles w. from Gloucester. The soil is generally a deep, red, loamy clay, and nearly in equal proportions applied to pasture and tillage. Cyder of the first quality, and a perry of peculiar flavour and value, called *Tainton Squash*, are produced here. The oak also flourishes with great luxuriance.

William Goizenboded held Tetinton at the general survey, taxed at five hides. It was granted to Peter Berdune, 1201, and John de Abernoox purchased a charter of free warren, 1253. It came afterwards to the Musgroves, and about 1290, passed into the family of John de Ferrers, Baron of Chartley, by marriage with Hawise, heiress of Robert de Musgrove, (who died 1281,) and wi-

dow of Sir William Mortimer, younger son of Roger Earl of March. In the family of Ferrers it continued till about 1460, when Anne, the only daughter of the last William Lord Ferrers in that line, carried the title to her husband, Walter Devereux, Esq. but the manor of Tainton being entailed on the male heirs, passed to Edmond Ferrers, brother of William, on whose descendants the whole, or part of the manor, continued till 1483. The Whittingtons were the next possessors, (199) and 1547, Thomas Whittington left his estates among his six daughters, but it does not appear to which of them this property came. It is however probable that one of the co-heiresses was married to a Blunt, as Sir Christopher Blunt was possessed of it in 1601, when he was attainted, and beheaded with the other conspirators in the plot of the Earl of Essex. The property being forfeited, was given by James I. to Sir Simon Weston and John Wakeman. In 1693, Mr. T. Pury, died lord of this manor and Minsterworth. He was mayor of Gloucester during the siege in the great rebellion, and took an active part in it. He is acknowledged to have been a man of piety and worth, and to have used his influence in performing several very generous acts. It is not improbable, that to his interference was owing the preservation of the cathedral of Gloucester from the outrages of fanatic madness. Mrs. Pury, his daughter and heiress, was proprietor at the beginning of last century.

The property is now very much subdivided, and it does not seem to be agreed in whom the manor is vested.

The principal estates belong to Ed. Probyn, Esq. William Holder, John Holder, and the Rev. Mr. Price.

Less considerable proprietors are Messrs. Burgess, Haskins, Smith, and others.

LITTLE TAINTON is a hamlet and manor. It was held by William, son of Norman, at the time of the survey. Hugh de Kelveck held the manor of the King, by the service of guarding a *hay*, or wood, near Hereford, at his own charge. By marriage with Hugh's daughter and co-heiress, Isabel, it came to William Waleran, and was purchased of him by Bogo, or Bevis, sheriff of Salop and Staffordshire, Edw. I. With him it continued till 1339, when it passed to the Verdunes, and afterwards to the Casseys (51), of Cassey-Compton, the last of whom died 1596. John Viney, Esq. was lord of the manor at the beginning of last century, and his descendant, James Viney, Esq. is the present proprietor.

Other proprietors are John Nourse, Esq., Mr. T. Perkins, &c.

Twenty freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 200—250—378. Houses inhabited, 69.

The benefice is a rectory in the Forest deanery. The dean and chapter of Gloucester are patrons; and John Luxmore, D. D. dean of Gloucester, is incumbent.

Maud de Teynton gave the church of Teynton to St. Peter's Abbey, to find lights; and Radulph Avenal confirmed it, likewise giving a hermitage here, with a villein and his family to the same house; and in the charter of endowments after the dissolution, the patronage of this church was confirmed to the chapter of Gloucester cathedral. A portion of tythes, formerly belonging to Kilpeck priory, co. Heref. is held under the same chapter by James Viney, Esq.

The old church, which had been built in very ancient times, and stood at the north end of the parish, was, together with the parsonage, burnt down in the civil wars. The present church, dedicated to St. Lawrence, was

erected during the usurpation of Cromwell, principally by the interest of Thomas Pury. It consists of a nave and a low spiral turret, and is dedicated, like the former, to St. Lawrence. Contrary to general custom, it stands north and south¹⁸.

In P. N. tax. the church of Teintone, 8*l*. Portion of the sacrist of St. Peter, Glouc. 1*l*. 0*s*. 8*d*. Portion of the prior of Kilpeck, 16*s*.

In the King's books, 9*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*.

CXCIX. UPLEADON, *anciently* LEDENE,

Is a small parish, containing about 1000 acres, distant eight miles N. from Gloucester. The soil is a red loam, about a third of which is in pasture and meadow, on the banks of the Leden, which bounds it on the east. The ploughed fields are planted with fruit trees, of the choicest sorts, particularly the squash-pear.

There were formerly considerable iron forges here, which are now converted into flour mills.

St. Peter's Abbey at Gloucester held this manor, containing four hides, before the time of the Conqueror, and continued in possession of it till the general suppression. It was then granted to John Arnold, and continued in his family till the beginning of the 17th century, when Dorothy Arnold, the heiress, carried it by marriage to Sir T. Lucy, of Charlecot, co. Warw. who was lord of the manor 1608. T. Brown, Esq. alderman of Gloucester, was afterwards proprietor. William Dowdeswell, Esq. was the next lessee, of whose representatives it was purchased by the Rev. John Foley, rector of Newent, who is now lord of the manor, with a considerable estate.

James De Visme, Esq. is proprietor of an estate containing about 200 acres.

The *Hay* estate belongs to the Rev. Mr. Beale, of Evesham, about 60 acres.

Benjamin Hyett, Esq. has an estate here, of about 80 acres.

Drews, containing 100 acres, is the property of Mr. White.

Seven freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 100—80—160. Houses inhabited, 31.

The benefice is a curacy in the Forest deanery, held by licence under the Bishop, and augmented with forty-three acres of land. The impropriation, formerly belonging to the abbey, was granted to the dean and chapter of Gloucester, and is in lease to Rev. John Foley, charged with 14*l.* 10*s.* to the curate. Thomas Davies, clerk, is incumbent.

The church is small, with a low wooden tower at the west end. On the north side is an elegantly ornamented door-way, of Saxon architecture.

Among the temporal possessions of the abbot of Gloucester, in P. N. tax. is the following entry:—"He holds
"also, in the manor of Upleden, eight acres of meadow,
"valued at 1*s.* 4*d.* per acre.

"The portion of the abbot of Gloucester in the chapel
"of Upleden, 2*l.*"

II. DUTCHY OF LANCASTER.

In 50 Edw. III. Lancashire was erected into a county palatine, and John of Gaunt, son of that King, was created Duke of Lancaster. All the estates in Gloucestershire, that came to him in right of Blanch his wife, daughter of the preceding Duke of Lancaster, were severed from the hundreds to which they formerly belonged, and erected into a new one.

When the Duke of Lancaster came to the throne, under the title of Henry the Fourth, the dutchy was extinct in his person, by reason of the union of it with the crown, but he, (suspecting himself to be more rightfully Duke of Lancaster than King of England,) determined to save his right in the dutchy, whatever might befall the kingdom, and therefore separated it from the crown, and settled it so in the natural persons of himself and his heirs, as if he had been no king or politic body at all. In this condition it continued during the reigns of Hen. V. and VI. who descended from him; but when Edw. IV. had, (by recovery of the crown,) reassumed the right of the house of York, he appropriated that dutchy to the crown again, but suffered the court and officers to remain as he found them; in which manner it came, together with the crown, to Hen. VII. who, approving of Hen. IV.'s policy, (by whose right he also obtained the kingdom,) made a like separation of the dutchy, and so left it to his posterity, who still enjoy it.

All matters appertaining to the dutchy, or county pa-

latine of Lancaster, are decided in the dutchy court, by a decree of the Chancellor. The principal officers are, Earl of Liverpool, Chancellor; J. Ord, Esq. Attorney General; T. Plumer, Esq. King's Serjeant; Lord Bolton, Receiver-General.

Persons resident within the dutchy enjoy the peculiar privileges of being exempt from the payment of toll, tonnage, pickage, pontage, and other such like duties and demands within the kingdom of Great Britain. To enable them to establish their claim, it is only necessary to produce an annual certificate of their residence within the dutchy, under the hand of the minister of the parish; but when the residence is changed to a different hundred, the right ceases. This is the case in the county of Gloucester, but does not exactly apply in all other places where the custom prevails. A burgess of the town of Monmouth, whether by birth or otherwise, carries the right with him, wherever he resides, and to justify his right to immunity, has only to produce the certificate, or patent of his freedom, under the seal of the corporation of Monmouth.

CC. BULLY, BOLAY, *anciently* BULELEGE,

Is a small parish, containing 500 acres, distant w. from Gloucester five miles, bounded on the s. by the turnpike-road leading to the Forest. The soil is a deep red loamy clay, producing plentiful crops of grass, corn, and fruit. The elm and oak grow luxuriantly here and in the neighbourhood.

Walter Balistarius is recorded in Domesday as proprietor of Bulelege in Westberie hundred, taxed at four hides. The immediate successor is not known, but the manor was in the family of Musgrose during the reign of Hen. III.

John de Monemuthe held it 9 Edw. I. and Mortimer, Earl of March, 1361. It was held successively by John Elliford and his son, and afterwards by John Milborn, Esq. till 1437. Morgan, Burgess, and Webb, were afterwards joint lords, and during the last century it came to the family of Hyett. Benjamin Hyett, Esq. is the present lord of the manor, with about 400*l.* a year annexed to it.

A considerable estate belongs to John Elton, Esq. of Gloucester.

James Wood, Esq. of the same place, is lessee under the dean and chapter of Gloucester, of more than 100 acres, purchased of the Rev. Mr. Burgess, of Kidderminster.

Callow's Elm is a good estate belonging to Noah Neale, Esq. by descent from Noah Neale, Esq. late of Gloucester.

A good estate, late the property of William Fendall, Esq. is now, by purchase, vested in — Bradstock, Gent.

Twenty-three freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 85—51—176. Houses inhabited, 38.

The benefice is a chapelry annexed to Churcham, and the impropriation is in the chapter of Gloucester. William Gyllett, Clerk, M.A. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, consists of a nave only, with a small low spire at the w. end. There seems to have been little alteration from the original building, which, as appears by the semi-circular zig-zag arches, was erected either before, or immediately after the conquest. The chancel has, at some former period, either been destroyed by violence, or fallen from the decays of time, but the arch which led to it still remains, and is a fine specimen of Saxon architecture. The south door likewise is of the same period.

In P. N. tax. the portion of the vicar of Chirchem, with the chapel of Bolay.

CCI. HUNTLEY, HUNTELEY, *anciently* HUNTELEI.

Is a parish about seven miles in circumference, and distant seven miles w. from Gloucester. The soil consists of stone-brash, sand, and loam of good quality. About a thousand acres in cultivation are nearly in equal proportion applied to pasture and arable. Nearly one third of the parish was formerly considered as waste land, but much is now converted to the purpose of raising young trees for timber. The woodland comprehends 100 acres, besides which a considerable quantity is still in common. The village is intersected by the turnpike-road to Monmouth and Hereford.

Yercledene or *Yartleton*, or more commonly *May-hill*, is partly within this parish. This is daily passing into cultivation by the wise and politic conduct of the lord of the manor, in granting small portions of waste land on beneficial leases to the cottagers, thereby enabling them by industry to enjoy the comforts of independence, and adding to the stock of provisions for the support of an increasing population.

William, son of Baderon, held Huntelei at the time of the conquest in Botelau hundred, taxed at two hides. Reginald de Grey purchased a charter of free warren, 1269. Robert Sapye, or de Sapy was lord with free warren, 1327. Richard Lord Talbot, of Goderick castle, had the manor by marriage with Elizabeth, one of the daughters and coheiresses of John Comyn, of Badenagh, and died seized of it, 1357. His son Gilbert Lord Talbot died seized of Huntley and Longhope, 1387, and was succeeded by Richard, whose son Gilbert Lord Talbot was also succeeded by his brother John, famous for his victories in France, who having been created Earl of Shrewsbury, was killed by a

cannon-shot at the siege of Chastillon, in France, 1453, when John, second Earl, succeeded, and the manors continued in the male line till Francis fifth Earl died without male issue, 32 Eliz. leaving three coheiresses; the second of whom married Henry Earl of Kent, and carried this manor as her portion into that family; with whose descendants it continued till the death of Henry, Duke of Kent, 1740; soon after which his great estates were sold, and this manor was purchased by Sir Edmund Probyn, Knt. whose heir, Edmund Probyn, Esq. of Newland, co. Gloucester, is now lord of the manor, and proprietor of nearly the whole of the parish.

Thomas Blunt, Esq. resides here in a handsome mansion-house, near the turnpike-road, and is also proprietor of a considerable estate.

Sixteen freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 242—269—313. Houses inhabited, 84.

The benefice is a rectory in the Forest deanery, the advowson of which was for several ages annexed to the manor, but on the sale of the Duke of Kent's property, was purchased by John Morse, clerk, the late incumbent, and on his death devolved to John Morse, Martha Morse, and Hannah Morse, who presented Richard Foley, M. A. the present incumbent. It belonged in early times by grant from Wikenoc de Monmouth, to the Benedictine Priory, founded by him within the castle of Monmouth, as a cell to the abbey of St. Florence de Salurmo.

The church, dedicated to John the Baptist, consists of a nave and chancel, with a low slated tower at the west end.

In the church-yard is growing a yew-tree of 20 feet in girth.

The rectorial house having been burnt down, was rebuilt by Jackman Morse, in 1720.

In P. N. tax. the church of Hunteleye is not worth 4*l.* a year.

In the King's books, (discharged) 7*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*

CCII. LONGHOPE, *anciently* LONGEHOPE.

Is a parish containg 2000 acres, distant nine miles w. from Gloucester. The soil is stone-brash, sand, and clay, applied in nearly equal proportions to arable and pasture, the latter of which is generally planted with fruit trees, producing cyder of a superior quality. About 368 acres are in woodland. Part of May-hill is in this parish. The rocky parts are formed of a very fine, hard limestone. The name is derived from *Hope*, Saxon for a *valley*; which is descriptive of its situation, and *Long* is prefixed to distinguish it from *Mansel-hope*, co. Hereford, not far distant.

✓ Thomas Bright, mentioned by Atkyns, as remarkable for his great age, and strength, died in 1708, at the advanced period of one hundred and twenty-four, as appears from his monumental stone in the church-yard.

A turnpike-road leads in a north-west direction to Ross, and another more westerly to Mitcheldean, and from thence to Monmouth, through the Forest.

The manor of Longhope was held by Forne and Ulfeg, two Saxons, in the reign of Edward the Confessor. It was afterwards held by William, son of Baderon, in the time of the Conqueror, rated at five hides, and was part of Westbury hundred. It continued in that family till 1256, when John de Monemuta, (Monmouth), having no issue male, gave all his lands to Prince Edward, eldest son of

Henry III. The manor was soon after granted to Gilbert Talbot, who married Gwenthlean, daughter of Rhese ap Griffith, Prince of South Wales. It afterwards devolved to the family of Talbot, with whom it remained for several centuries, and was sold with other estates of the Duke of Kent, to Sir Edmund Probyn, Knt. and is now the property of his nephew, Edmund Probyn, Esq. whose landed estates in this parish amount to about 400*l.* a year, a part of which belonging in the last century to the families of Bromwich, Nourse, and Yate, were purchased by Mr. Howell, and by marriage with his daughter came to the present proprietor.

Thomas Blunt, Esq. of Huntley, Mrs. Colchester, and Mr. Sargeant are possessed of considerable estates.

Less considerable proprietors are Messrs. Taylor, Hopkins, Rudge, Coleman, and Dykes.

Robert Coghlan, Esq. has also a house here, in which he resides, with an estate annexed.

A great part of the parish is copy-hold tenure, held by a small reserved rent, and on every surrender, one year's value of it is paid to the lord. The property is not lost by failure of surrender, or want of heir.

Forty freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 500—470—636. Houses inhabited, 145.

The benefice is a vicarage in Forest deanery. The advowson was anciently in the abbey of Lyra, in Normandy; afterwards in the priory of St. Mary St. Florence, in Monmouth, as appears from P. N. taxation, 1299. After the dissolution, the impropriation was vested in the family of Nourse, and descended to Mr. Nourse Yate, who restored the whole tithes to the vicarage. Edmund Probyn, Esq. is patron, and John Probyn, clerk, incumbent.

The church, dedicated to All Saints, consists of a nave

and transept of large dimensions, with a steeple at the west end. In the south transept are the remains of a staircase, leading probably to the Holy-rood loft(6). The chancel was rebuilt, and the church repaired in 1771. The whole stile of the present building is more modern than that which existed at the time of the taxation Ed. I. and may be referred to the early part of the 15th century.

Estates to the amount of sixty pounds a year are vested in trustees for the poor.

The rectory is valued in P. N. taxation at 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

The vicarage at 4*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*

In the King's books (discharged) 9*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*

CCIII. MINSTERWORTH, *anciently* MORTUNE,

Is a parish distant four miles w. from Gloucester, and intersected by the turnpike road leading to Chepstow. It consists of 1850 acres, which are applied nearly in equal proportions to pasture, arable, and meadow. The soil is in general deep and fertile, well adapted to orcharding, to which particular attention is given. Extensive meadows lie on the banks of the Severn, and in general form the boundary on the east; but opposite to the church a considerable portion of land is cut off by the river, and lies on the other side (238). It is supposed that the abbey of Gloucester having lands in Elmore, procured them to be annexed to the parish of Minsterworth, where their principal property was. Tradition offers another reason, in supposing that the Severn at some distant period changed its course, and that on the formation of the new channel this part was separated from the body of the parish; but no vestiges can be found to confirm this tradition.

The ancient name of Mortune, evidently signifies “ the

town on the river :” *Mor*, British for sea, but in composition, ‘*water*’, only. The name of Minsterworth is of more modern date, and was given when this parish came into the possession of the abbey of St. Peter: ‘*Worth*,’ Saxon, for town or villa, belonging to the Minster.

The copyhold estates in this parish are much decreased. The custom is, for the inheritance to descend to the eldest daughter, on failure of a male heir.

In this manor acknowledgements are paid to the lord, for the liberty of fishing in the Severn, under the name of Prid-gavel. The custom is of very ancient date ; but there is a difference of opinion about the origin. Atkyns derives the term from *Lampreyd* and *Gavel*, that is, a tribute for fishing for lampreys. Rudder, from *Pride*, a wickered *put* or *pouchin*, a machine used for taking this kind of fish¹⁹.

The church of St. Peter in Gloucester held Mortune at the time of the survey. Simon de Montford held it 1259. Henry de Lancaster was lord of Minsterworth and Rodley 1281 ; and his posterity continued in the possession of it, with only one interruption, till 1362 ; and 1415 it was granted to the Archbishop of York, in trust, and afterwards held by several leases under the crown, till 1610, when it was granted in fee to Salter and Williams, at an annual rent of 20*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* About 1645 it became vested in Thomas Pury, and was sold by him to Mr. T. Burgess, 1704. From his heir it passed by purchase to Mr. Cook, of Highnam, and from his daughter to the late Sir Charles Barrow, by purchase, who was the heir male of the Barrows or Berrows, of Field Court, in the parish of Hardwick and Aure, co. Gloucester. Charles Evans, Esq. is now lord of the manor, and proprietor of the estates, by marriage with Sir Charles’s daughter and heir, by will. The

property now annexed to the manor, comprehends nearly half the parish.

HAMLETS. 1. **MORCOTE OR BOYFIELD.** The former name signifies *Coed*, the wood, *mor*, near the water. The latter, according to Rudder, is derived from *Bois*, Norman for wood; and *field*, a plain in Saxon; or *Bois* might only be the name of an ancient proprietor. It is a reputed manor, and was held by William, son of Norman, at the time of the survey, under the name of Morcote. It was afterwards in the possession of Richard Veel, 1343; John Boteler, 1363; John Kenn and heirs from 1405 to 1453; Thomas Elmbridge, by purchase, and his son, afterwards, to 1526; Sir John Danet, by marriage with a daughter of Thomas Elmbridge, became possessed of it, and his son sold it to Thomas Atkyns, Esq. of Tuffleigh, from whom it passed to Thomas Hoard, Esq. who married a co-heiress of that family, and John Chamberlayne, clerk, descended from another co-heiress. Edmund John Chamberlayne, Esq. and Anne Hoarde, the heirs general of that family, sold their joint estates to Jeremiah Hawkins, Esq. and Mr Joseph Hawkins, the present proprietors (84).

Mrs. Sarah Drayton has a good estate in this hamlet, which is vested in her for the benefit of her children, and came by the will of her uncle, William Box, Esq. late alderman of Gloucester.

2. **HAMPTON** is situate in the centre of the parish, adjoining to the Ham, or great meadow, now inclosed²⁰. Roger de Boyfield, who probably took his name from his place of residence in the hamlet of Boyfield, was seized of one messuage and one yard-land, in Hampton, parcel of the manor of Minsterworth.

3. **DUNNY, or DUNI**, is not mentioned in Domesday, but understood to be the half hide of land held by Goi-

zenboded, with half the fishery in Westberie hundred. Roger de Staunton gave a yard-land, called Duni, in Minsterworth, to Gloucester abbey, in the 12th century. Roger Earl of Hereford gave half the fishery to the same church, which Hen. II. confirmed. The other half was granted by Edward III. and these fisheries were afterwards granted with the manor, 7 James.

Other estates belong to Mr. D. Ellis, son of the late Mr. Ellis, of this parish.

Mr. Oakey had a good property here, which on his death devolved, together with the lease of the impropriation, to his daughter, now the wife of Mr. Syms.

Atkyns makes Minsterworth the chief place of residence of John Guellem, eminent for his book of Heraldry.

Fourteen freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 300—300—354. Houses inhabited, 72.

The benefice is vicarial, in the Forest deanery. The impropriation was given to the priory of St. Oswald, 1399. It afterwards belonged to the monastery of Boileau, co. Hants, and at the dissolution the rectory and advowson were granted to the see of Bristol, 1543. It is now in lease to the representatives of John Oakey, deceased.—The King's auditor pays 10*l.* annually to the vicar, and the impropriator four loads of hay.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, consists of a nave and aisle of equal length, and a chancel to each. The south chancel is separated by an arch, pointed, and ornamented with zig-zag mouldings. This is probably a part of the ancient building, in the 13th century, when it was a chapel to Westbury. The tower is low, and unembatteled; it is said, that a steeple which stood upon it was destroyed by lightning, and the bells melted, 1702.

In P. N. tax. the church of Westbury, with the chapel of Newnham and Minstreworth.

In the King's books (discharged), 10*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

CCIV. TIBBERTON, TYBRETON, *anciently* TEBRISTON,

Is a parish of middling size, distant about six miles N. W. from Gloucester, and was anciently in the hundred of Botloe. The soil is of a deep loamy clay, and produces plentiful crops of every kind of grass, corn, cyder, and perry. The whole is upwards of 1337 acres, 700 of which are under tillage. The landholders of this parish enjoy an unlimited right of common in Dean Forest and Huntley common.

William the son of Baderon held Tebriston, in Botelau hundred, containing five hides, and a wood three miles long and one broad. Henry Earl of Lancaster was lord of this manor 1329: he was afterwards duke; and left two daughters 1362. Blanch, the younger, succeeded, upon the death of the elder, to the estates, having been married to John of Gaunt 1359; who, with her, levied a fine of Tibberton, Rodley (209), and Minsterworth, to the use of themselves in taille 1366. He died 1399, and his son Henry came to the crown the same year, by the resignation of Rich. II. by which means this manor came to the crown. Henry IV. by act of Parliament, severed the Duchy of Lancaster from the crown, and entailed it on his heirs; and Henry V. in 1414, by act, annexed all the great estates that descended to him from Mary his mother, daughter and co-heiress of Humphry de Bohun Earl of Hereford, to the Duchy of Lancaster. The House of York, however, with the crown became possessed of Tib-

berton in the person of Edw. IV. who levied a fine of it, to the use of Elizabeth his queen, in 1476. The manor continued in the crown till 1608, and was granted by Jas. I. to Edward and Robert Ramsay. At the beginning of last century it had passed to Mr. Payne and Mr. Twytty, both of Worcester, as joint proprietors. About 1740 it was purchased by Peter Haynes, of Gloucester. His son died before him, and the manor with the estates descended to his daughter, of whom it was purchased, about 1766, by Edward Elton, Esq. then of Gloucester, but now of Burley-hill, co. Glamorgan. He is descended from an ancient family seated near Ledbury, co. Heref.

The principal estates, containing about 303 acres, were lately sold by him to Henry Sharpe Pocklington, Esq. who resides in the mansion house.

All manerial rights are reserved and excepted out of the purchase.

The other principal proprietors are, Mr. C. Bullock, of 145 acres; Mr. W. Bullock, of 103 acres; Mr. Dobbs, of 100 acres; Mr. Loveridge, of 114 acres; Mr. W. Young, of 98 acres; and Mr. Lewes, of 84 acres.

A part of Tibberton, Tainton, and Bully compose a manor, of which the dean and chapter of Gloucester are lords.

One freeholder voted in 1776.

Population, 150—230—254. Houses inhabited, 37.

The benefice is rectorial, in the Forest deanery. On the death of the late incumbent, another claim was set up to the advowson, but a decision was at length made in the Court of Exchequer, which confirmed it to Edward Elton, Esq. Gilbert Elton, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to Holy Trinity, is a small

building, consisting of a nave only and chancel, with a tower at the west end, pointed, and covered with tiles.

In P. N. tax. the church of Tybreton, 8*l*.

In the King's books (discharged) 7*l*. 16*s*. 0½*d*.

III. WESTBURY HUNDRED.

CCV. BLAISDON, BLECHESDEN, *anciently* BLETESDEN.

Is a small parish, nine miles w. from Gloucester. The soil is chiefly clay, and nearly divided equally into pasture, arable, and woodland. Natswood brook intersects it, in its way to the Severn. It was anciently a part of the Forest, and probably derived its name from that circumstance, prefixing the name of the original proprietor.

About the beginning of the last century, 50 acres of waste land were planted with firs, which have been cut down within the last ten years. Some of them, and particularly those to which the greatest interval had been allowed, measured 100 feet each of timber. The average measure of each was about 50 feet. Five yards square were in general allowed to each plant, which, allowing 4840 square yards to an acre, gives on the whole plantation 48,400 plants. If each tree, while standing, were valued at five shillings, the product would be 12,100*l*. and estimating the rent of the land, during the whole period, at 3750*l*. the remainder is left for the expence of planting and preserving. The property belonged to John Wade, Esq. and the land is now converted into tillage²¹.

Blechesden was anciently appendant on Longhope, and in 1281 was returned by the escheator as a hamlet to it. The first account of its having a church and parochial rites is found in P. N. tax. 1299; and 1359 Jeffry de Marescal held the advowson. Humphry de Bohun was proprietor 1373. The manor was afterwards granted by him to the abbey of Flaxley, and at the suppression, it was granted to Sir Anthony Kingston, 1545. In 1608 William Kingston held it, and from him it passed to the family of Wade. The manor is now the property of Anna, relict of William Gordon, Esq. late of Bristol, and heiress to the late John Wade, Esq. (174)

Mrs. Sarah Boughton is in possession of an ancient freehold, long vested in the family of that name.

Upper Standleys belonged to the family of Bullock so early as the reign of Elizabeth, and is now vested in William Bullock, gent.

Brickhouse is an estate belonging to the family of Hayle in Gloucester.

The Velt House, with the greater part of the other property in the parish, is attached to the manor.

The number of buildings in this parish were much reduced in 1699 by fire, and the loss on oath amounted to 4210*l*. The event is recorded on a tablet, placed in the church.

Nine freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 180—137—152. Houses, 34.

The benefice is rectorial, in the Forest deanery, and the patronage annexed to the manor. John Black, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Michael, consists of a nave only, with a low battlemented tower at the west end.

In P. N. tax. the church of Blechedene, 4*l*.

In the King's books (discharged) 5*l*. 7*s*. 3½*d*.

CCVI. CHURCHAM, *anciently* HAMME,

Is a parish of considerable size, distant nearly five miles N. W. from Gloucester. The soil is in general a fine red loamy clay, producing good crops either in grass or corn. The arable bears a greater proportion than pasture, and fruit trees are generally planted in the fields. Birdwood common is now inclosed. The east side of this parish lies sloping so advantageously to the morning sun, that the harvest is generally a fortnight earlier than in most of the adjacent places.

Ham, Saxon, signifies a *farm* or *village*; hence are derived names of places with this termination; this place was anciently called *Hamme* simply, but being the part of the parish where the church was built, the addition was given to distinguish it from the other hamlets. This distinction took place in 1281.

The two manors of Churcham and Highnam were given by mandate of the Pope to the abbey of Gloucester, for the support of seven monks there, as an atonement for the murder of seven monks in their way to this place, by Wolphin de Rue, the proprietor of it, and consul of Gloucester, about 1048. The abbey continued the possession till the dissolution, when Churcham, with Byrdewood, was granted to the dean and chapter of Gloucester, 1542.

Sir John Chamberlain held the manor in 1608, as lessee. It afterwards passed to the family of Brown, an alderman of Gloucester, who died 1639, and left it to his widow. By her it was devised to John Harris, of London, in which family it was at the beginning of last century. Sir Charles

Barrow, Bart. and Colonel Money were lessees till near the latter end of last century. The former permitting his lease to expire without renewing, the manor, with the appendant estates, reverted to the dean and chapter, by whom they have since been granted to other lessees.

Part of the estates belonging to Colonel Money were sold to Mr. Rowles, and by him devised to his two sisters, Mrs. Crump and Mrs. Phelps.

An estate called *Cold Comfort*, was devised by Colonel Money to Mrs. Roberts, and on her death descended to the Rev. Mr. Roberts, of Much Marcle, co. Hereford.

In the last leases granted, the chapter reserved all manerial rights.

HIGHNAM, LINTON, and OVER are hamlets forming one tything, and lying in the hundred of Dudstan and Kings-barton, but anciently of Tolangebriges.

1. HIGHNAM is two miles distant from Gloucester, and contained according to Domesday seven hides. Part of the grange or mansion-house was reserved in the lease dated 7 Hen. VIII. for the abbot and his men, if the plague should be in Gloucester or Over. The manors of Highnam and Over were granted, 1542, to John Arnold, of Monmouthshire, who was succeeded by his son Nicholas Arnold, and he by Rowland Arnold, who left an only daughter and heiress, wife of Thomas Lucy, son of Sir Thomas Lucy, of Charlcot, co. Warwick. He left an only daughter, married to Sir William Cook, descended from the family of Cook, of Giddy-hall, co. Essex. Sir Robert Cook, his son, was succeeded by William, and his eldest son, Dennis Cook, dying in his father's life-time, the estate came to his brother Edward. William Cook, his son and heir, dying without issue, was succeeded by his brother Dennis, who having no male issue, the estate de-

volved to his two sisters, agreeably to the father's will. The elder, Anne, was married to Roynon Jones, Esq. of Nass, co. Gloucester, who died, 1732 (207), and the younger, Mary, to Henry Guise, of Gloucester, Esq. who dying 1749, was succeeded by his son, John, afterwards Sir John Guise, Bart. He purchased the moiety which belonged to Roynon Jones, Esq. in right of his father's marriage. On his death, in 1794, he was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Berkeley William Guise, Bart. the present lord of the manor, and proprietor of the estates dependant upon them, and heir to the late Sir William Guise, Bart. of Rendcomb, subject to the life-estate of the Honorable Jane Barrington, his sister, and Lady of the Bishop of Durham (238).

The mansion-house was built after a plan of Inigo Jones, soon after the civil war, by William Cook, Esq. who had been a colonel under Cromwell, but was reconciled after the restoration. The old house was ruined during the seige of Gloucester, by having been used in turns as a garrison to both parties. The situation is pleasant, and the gardens and offices extensive and convenient. Near the house, and too much in the front of it, is a private chapel, wherein several of the Cooks are interred, by whom it was built.

The whole of this hamlet, as also of Linton and Over, with a very trifling exception, belongs to Sir B. William Guise, Bart.

OVER lies on the banks of the western channel of the Severn, and communicates with Gloucester by a bridge, repaired at the expence of the county.

This bridge probably gave name to the old hundred of *Langebrige*. *Over* is derived from the Saxon *Ofer*, the bank of a river²².

Two freeholders voted in 1776, for Churcham; and two for the three hamlets.

Population of Churcham, 340—309—327. Houses inhabited, 74.

Population of the three hamlets, 202. Houses inhabited, 52.

The benefice is vicarial, in the Forest deanery, in the patronage of the chapter of Gloucester, who are also the impropriators. William Gyllett, A. M. is incumbent, with the chapel of Bulley annexed.

The church consists of a nave only, with a low spire at the west end, covered with shingles. The arch which separates the chancel and the south door-way, now reduced, is semicircular, resting on plain pillars, and exhibits the style of the early Norman, soon after the conquest.

In P. N. tax. the church of Chirchelm belongs to the abbot of Gloucester, 20*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*

The vicar's portion with the chapel of Bolay, 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

In the King's books, 20*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.*

CCVII. NEWNHAM, *anciently* NEUNEHAM,

Is a market town, distant from Gloucester twelve miles, s. w. and situate on the Severn, which is here at high water nearly a mile from one side to the other. The parish is about eight miles in compass, and comprehends 900 acres of various soil, but a red loam predominates, and is chiefly in pasture. Cyder of excellent quality is produced here and in the neighbourhood.

From this town is one of the passages over the river, which is perfectly safe, and may be made almost in every state of the tide for men, horses, and carriages. Near to

this place a rock rises so near to the surface at low water, that horses and carriages are conducted across with great safety, by a guide, without a boat. But to those who are unacquainted with the line of the ridge, the attempt is attended with extreme danger, as the rock does not gradually shelve off, but precipitates suddenly to a great depth on either side²³. The passage is the property of Roynon Jones, Esq.

The first fortification erected on the west side of the Severn against the inroads of the Welch, was at Newnham; and Strongbow, Earl of Chepstow, in pursuance of royal mandate, met Henry II. here. No remains of the ancient castle are now to be seen, frequent mention of which is made in several grants of lands in Newnham from the prior and brethren of St. Bartholomew's hospital in Gloucester²⁴.

This town had also a considerable share in the military events of the reign of Charles I. A strong party of Sir J. Wintour's forces kept garrison in the church and the fort adjoining, of considerable strength. The enemy soon possessed themselves of the town, and got near the works, which were strengthened with double pallisadoes. The royalists, seeing the uncertainty of their situation, jumped over the works, and ran from the out-work into the church, hoping to clear the mount which the enemy had gained. Both parties tumbled into the church together. In this state of things, a barrel of gun-powder was fired in the church, conceived to be done by one Tipper, a papist, and a servant of Sir John Wintour. By this explosion many were blown out of the church, a great number injured, but none killed. The enraged soldiers fell upon the royalists, and, in the heat of blood, slew near twenty, and took a hundred prisoners, without the loss of a man on the side of the rebels²⁵.

The town, which was once distinct from the manor, was probably more extensive formerly than at present, as in the ancient grants of land in the borough, many names occur, of streets and lanes, which are now forgotten. It was one of the five boroughs within the county, in the reign of Edw. I. and was governed by a mayor and burgesses. The sword of state given by John is still preserved, and on it an inscription, signifying the year 1584, when it was repaired, with the name of the mayor, who presided at that time. The annual election of mayor has been some time laid aside. A court is held for the manor, at which two constables are appointed and sworn.

A considerable trade is carried on from this place to London, Ireland, and other places; large quantities of bark and timber are exported, and wines imported: and some ships are built here. The situation is indeed favourable to trade, but has not been perhaps improved with the same advantage as at other places. The glass-house which was worked in the reign of Cha. I. is entirely destroyed.

Neuneham signifies *Nova Villa*, or *New Town*; from which Baxter is of opinion, that there was once another place in the neighbourhood of more ancient date, and opposite to Framilode Passage, which he imagines to be the *Durotuobriga* of the Itinerary²⁶.

The cliff on which the church is situated, commands the great semicircle which is here formed by the Severn, with admirable effect, while the Cotswold range, terminating in the bold elevation of Stinchcomb Hill, bounds the vale to the east, and the undulating hills of the Forest of Dean close in upon it on the west, opening into various sweetly picturesque glens.

William, the son of Baderon, held Neuneham in the time of the Conqueror, taxed at one hide. The Bohuns afterwards held it, but resigned all right to King John in the first year of his reign. After having been held by William, Earl of Shrewsbury, and John Foliot, it seems to have reverted to the crown, but much confusion has followed, from the manor and town having been distinct; so that it is perhaps more difficult than useful to trace the descent with accuracy. The abbey of Flaxley were proprietors some time before the dissolution, after which it was granted to Sir Anthony Kingston, 1545. Henry, Lord Stafford, and Ursula his wife, held it in 1555, by grant from the crown. It descended to Edward, his son, his grandson of the same name, and lastly to Henry his great grandson, on whose death, unmarried, it passed, 1637, to Sir William Howard, younger son to Thomas, Earl of Arundel and Surrey, in right of marriage to Mary, the sister and sole heiress of Henry. He was created Viscount Stafford by Cha. I. and beheaded on account of the Popish plot, 1680. Henry, the eldest son, was created Earl of Stafford by James II. and succeeded to the manor in 1689. The Earl of Effingham was lord of the manor till his death, when he was succeeded by Henry Howard, Esq. M. P. for Gloucester.

RUDDLE is a hamlet, formerly called *Rodele*, in early times belonging to the abbey of Gloucester; the possession of which was confirmed by Henry I. to find lights to burn continually before the high altar, for the soul of Duke Robert Curthoise, his brother. At the dissolution the manor was granted to William, Earl of Pembroke, who sold it to Sir Giles Pool, 1557, from whom it passed by purchase, to the family of Jones. Roynon Jones, Esq. the present lord of the manor, is the son of the late Wil-

liam Jones, Esq. of Nass, co. Glou. by Cholmley, daughter of Sir John D'Oyley, Bart. of Chessel Hampton, co. Oxon. His residence is at Hay-hill House, which he has built within a few years past.

Stairs or *Staure*, the seat and estate of William Marwent, Esq. at the beginning of the last century, was devised to the family of Baron, from whom it passed by purchase to Thomas Morris, Gent. the present proprietor.

Cockshoot, formerly belonging to Mr. Rolls, is now the property of Joseph Pyrke, Esq. of Littledeane. This, and *Stairs* are part of Rodley manor(209), and in the Dutchy of Lancaster.

Bleythe's Court, or *Blaze Bailey*, was the property of Mr. Pyrke, now of Thomas Beale, Esq.

The *Hill-house*, formerly the property of Mr. Trigg, afterwards of Mr. Pyrke, is now held by his widow, under settlement.

Twenty-nine freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 400—400—821. Houses inhabited, 144.

The benefice is a curacy under the Corporation of Gloucester, as trustees of St. Bartholomew's hospital, who lease the impropriate tythes to the curate at a small rent. William de Bohun gave the impropriation and advowson to the prior and brethren of the hospital, 1344. James Parsons, M.A. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, stands on a knole near the river, and is a prominent feature in the landscape of the surrounding country. It has a small aisle on the south side, belonging to the Marwent family, and a low wooden spire at the west end. The arch leading to the chancel shews considerable antiquity, being in the early Norman style, pointed and ornamented with zig-zag mouldings²⁷. The more ancient building, which was a

chapel to Westbury (209), stood, according to tradition, at Nabb's-end, but being undermined by the water, was taken down; and it is not improbable that the present building, from the continual wasting of a marly soil, will have a similar termination.

In P. N. tax. the abbot of Gloucester hath in the manor of Rodele three carucates of land.

CCVIII. TIDENHAM, TUDEHAM, *anciently* TEDENHAM,

Is a parish of large extent, containing 5000 acres, extending to the Wye on the west, and the Severn on the east, and distant twenty-five miles from Gloucester. The soil is light, and of a colour inclining to red, covering at a small depth a rock of limestone. The pasture exceeds the arable in quantity, and on the banks of the Severn are some fine meadows or salt marshes. Very good cyder is made in this parish.

Atkyns deduced its name from the circumstance of the tides running up the rivers on each side of it; but this conjecture can with difficulty be admitted, because the name in Domesday is Tedenham, and it does not appear, that either Britons, Romans, or Saxons, gave the appellation of Tide or Teden to this natural phenomenon. More likely, the place or town might belong to a very early proprietor of that name.

The bridge over the Wye, forming the junction with Monmouthshire, commences here. The half on the Gloucestershire side is repaired at the expence of this county. The flooring of this part is formed of thick planks, which are kept firm in their places by wedges of wood. The general account is, that the flooring is left loose, for the purpose of rising with the tide; but the truth seems to be;

that no such rise has ever been known to take place ; and though it is said, that the water is accumulated to the height of seventy feet here, yet it has been proved, that fifty-six feet is the highest point it has risen to in the memory of man. The cause why the swell of tide is greater in the Wye than in the Severn, is supposed to arise from the projection of the rocks at Beachley and Aust, which forces the current with increased rapidity up the former river.

The turnpike road leads through this parish into Wales, and for a considerable way commands a very extensive prospect over the wide estuary of the Severn to the east, and as far as the Holmes down the Channel.

Near the confluence of the two rivers, are some ruins, visible only at low water, said to be the remains of a very ancient chapel dedicated to St. Terendake, or Tecla, who was martyred in 47.

The famous dyke made in 760 by Offa, King of the Mercians, (who had made himself master of the greater part of England,) to prevent his dominions from the incursions of the Welch, began here, and now forms a separation between Beachley and Sudbury. This serves to shew the bounds of Wales about the middle of the eighth century. *Claudh Offa*, which is the British name, passes through Colford (218), is seen on Brachy-hill, and near Ryhd at Helig, and Lanterden, in Herefordshire; and is continued northwards from Knighton, over a part of Shropshire into Montgomeryshire; and may be traced over the long mountain called in Welch Kevn Digolh, to Harden Castle, cross the Severn and Lhan Dunio Common. Whence it passes the Vyrnwy again into Shropshire, not far from Oswaldstry, where there is also a small village called Tre-

vyrclawdh. In Denbighshire it is visible along the road between Rhywabon and Wrexham; from whence being continued through Flintshire, it ends a little below Holywell, where that water falls into the Dee, at a place formerly the site of the castle of Basingwerk.

Harold established a law, that if any Welshman should be found armed on this side Offa's Dike, his right hand should be cut off by the King's officers.

At the time of the survey there were several proprietors in Tedenham, but the abbey of Bath held the largest, containing thirty hides. The Welch took this with Wollaston, but Walter and Roger, younger brothers of Gilbert, Earl of Clare, retook them in 1160. Richard Strongbow, son and heir of Gilbert, became Earl of Pembroke and Strigule, (Chepstow). William Mareschal married Isabel, his only daughter, and in consequence succeeded to his title and property. William Earl of Pembroke died 1219, leaving five sons, who were successively Earls of Pembroke, but all dying without issue, their four sisters were coheiresses. Hugh Bigot, Earl of Norfolk, married Maud the eldest, and in her right became proprietor of the manor of Tidenham. Roger, his great grandson, dying without issue, the manor came to the crown, and was given by Edward II. to his younger brother Thomas, fifth son of Edward I. with the title of Earl of Norfolk. Margaret, one of his daughters, afterwards created Dutchess of Norfolk by Rich. II. carried the estate by marriage into the family of De Segrave. Elizabeth, the sole issue of this union, was wife of John de Mowbray, who was created Earl of Norfolk, and Earl Mareschal. In this family the manor and estates continued, but not in the direct line, till they passed to the male heir of a col-

lateral branch, on failure of issue from Anne, daughter of John, Duke of Norfolk, who was married to Richard, Duke of York, second son of Edward IV.

Isabel, daughter of Thomas de Mowbray, who was created Duke of Norfolk by Richard II. had been married a second time, to James, fifth Earl of Berkeley; and Margaret, the other daughter, to Sir Robert Howard. These great estates were partitioned among their heirs in 1499, as descendants in the female line.

The manor of Tidenham came soon afterwards to the Earl of Worcester, and from Henry Earl of Worcester, who died 1550, it has regularly descended through the noble family of Beaufort to the present Duke, with the property of the greatest part of the parish.

HAMLETS, or PLACES of distinct names.

1. CHURCH-END.—Near the church Thomas Williams, Esq. has a good house, beautifully situated for an extensive view over the channel, with a considerable estate, late the property of Mr. William Jones.

2. BISHTON, formerly written BISTEN, is almost exclusively the property of the Duke of Beaufort.

3. SUDBURY, or a station two miles south of the military works, called the *Bulwarks*, is also the property of the Duke, in the proportion of nearly half.

Mr. William Lewis is a considerable proprietor.

4. BEACHLEY, BETTESLEY or BETESLEGH. This manor had been in the Lewis family for at least two centuries, till it lately became the property of Samuel Jenkins, sen. Esq.

Some military works are seen here, by the name of *Bulwarks*.

The almost insular situation of Beachley must have made it in all ages a place of importance, and therefore

it is difficult to assign the earthworks, which are so frequent here, to any particular people. In the civil wars it was esteemed of so much importance, that Prince Rupert sent 500 horse and foot into the Forest, for the purpose of making it a lasting guard. The passage, which was the only commodious one from Wales to Bristol and the western parts, added much to its consequence. Corbet relates, that before the fortifications were finished, Governor Massie attacked the royal forces, and after killing a great many, entirely dislodged the rest. The King's friends made a second attempt to fortify this place, but with no better success. Two hundred and twenty were killed in this attack, and Sir John Wintour was forced down the cliff into the river Wye, where a little boat lay to receive him. The traditional account of his leaping with his horse down the precipice, which is now called *Winter's Leap*, from the certainty of destruction consequent upon the attempt, carries its own confutation with it.

5. WIBDEN or WIDDEN, formerly belonged to John Madocke, Esq. who had a good estate and house. The latter is in ruins, and the former after having been in the family two centuries, passed to William Sheldon, of Weston, co. Warwick.

The manor of Walden in this hamlet, which belonged to Morgan Lewis, Esq. is now the property of Samuel Jenkins, sen. Esq.

Considerable property in this hamlet belongs to Thos. Williams, Esq.

6. STROAT or STROTE. Here the family of James have for many years possessed a good estate, which is now vested in Selwyn James, Esq.

Charles James, Esq. of London, is also proprietor of a good house and estate, by marriage with the surviving

daughter of the late Somerset Jones, Esq. of Tidenham.

7. LANCAUT. In this hamlet is a chapel, on the banks of the Wye, dedicated to St. James, in which divine service is performed once a month. It was formerly a distinct rectory, to which the Earl of Worcester presented in 1548, but is now annexed to Wollaston. The principal property belongs to Thomas Williams, Esq.

Twenty-seven freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 600—500—696. Houses inhabited, 138.

The benefice is vicarial, in the Forest deanery, and patronage of James Davies, Esq. and ——— Davies is incumbent.

The impropriation formerly belonged to the priory of Sheen, co. Surrey, who gave 13 bushels of wheat, and 13*d.* in money, to be distributed yearly to the poor, on the Thursday before Easter; in 1608 it was granted to Thomas James, with reservation of the same annual payment, which has been regularly continued.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, consists of a nave and aisle, separated by circular pillars, supporting plain pointed arches. The tower is ornamented with pinnacles; the whole building stands on an elevated spot, and is seen at a great distance.

In P. N. tax. the church of Tudeham, belonging to the Prior de Lyra, 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

The vicar's portion, 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

In the King's books (discharged) 9*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*

CCIX. WESTBURY, *anciently* WESBERIE.

Is a large parish, distant two miles N. E. from Newnam, ten s. w. from Gloucester, and containing 8000 acres. The soil, except in the meadows adjoining the Severn, is rather light, and of a colour inclining to red. Nearly equal quantities are applied to pasture and arable. The former is planted, in considerable portions, with fruit. There are about 100 acres of wood. Rudder supposes the name to signify *West camp*, and observes that he can find no traces of ancient entrenchments; but there is no necessity of referring to a military station: if the etymology be decided from the termination of *berie*, it will signify the plain on the west; or if from *burh* or *burgh*, Sax. it will mean *a town* on the west; for these words as often have reference to a city or town, as an encampment; and *west* only refers to its situation on the western side of the river, in opposition to *Eastington* on the other. The addition *upon Severn*, is given to distinguish it from another place of the same name in Henbury hundred.

Here is a safe passage for men and horses over the Severn to Framilode on the other side.

John Baynham, of this place, son of Sir Alexander Baynham, the elder, a man of large property, was burnt in the reign of Hen. VIII. 1531, in Smithfield, for promoting the cause of the Reformation.

This manor, at the time of the Conqueror's survey, contained thirty hides, and belonged to the King. It was granted to Ralph de Beauchamp 1216, and passed next to the Burghulls, or Bornhulls. Robert de Sapy was proprietor 1337; Jeffery de Mareschal in 1359; John de Aylesford 1396; John Milborn in 1437; John Earl of Shrewsbury 1454; and Alice, widow of William Codder, 1456.

The manor passed afterwards to the Baynham. Joseph Baynham was lord of it 1572. The records relating to this manor are intricate, in consequence of the inferior manors being often specified under the general name of Westbury manor. Several grants appear from the crown, but they were probably of estates and lands only, as the great manor or hundred of Westbury still belongs to the crown, and the court-leet is held by the sheriff.

The parish is divided into several

TYTHINGS and HAMLETS. 1. WESTBURY tything.

The church is situated in this, and the principal property belongs to Maynard Colchester, Esq.

A good handsome modern house belongs here to the family of Colchester. It was built by Maynard Colchester, Esq. who died in 1756. In the front over the door is the following inscription:—

D.
O. M.
N. M. M. H. E. P. N. C.

that is—

*Deo optimo maximo,
Nunc mei, mox hujus, et postea nescio cujus.*

The present proprietor, who is a minor, is grandson to the said Maynard Colchester, Esq. who was nephew and sole heir of Colonel Maynard Colchester, grandson of Sir Duncomb Colchester, and great grandson of that eminent lawyer, Serjeant Maynard.

2. RODLEY is a member of the Duchy of Lancaster, and lies E. from the church. Rodele was held at the time of the survey by Walter Balestarius, taxed at one hide²⁸. It belonged to Henry de Bohun, 1199; to Simon Mountford, Earl of Leicester, 1259; Gilbert Talbot, 1274; and afterwards to Richard Talbot. The Earls of Lancaster were successive proprietors from 1287 to 1359, when Blanch,

one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Hen. Duke of Lancaster, by marriage carried it to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, from whom were descended the Kings of England of the line of Lancaster. Hence it became a part of the Duchy. From the late Sir William Guise, Bart. of Rendcomb, it passed to his sister Jane, and in right of marriage to Shute Barrington, Lord Bishop of Durham, the present owner of the manor, without any estate attached to it.

The principal estate belongs to Maynard Colchester, Esq.

Other proprietors are John Hartland, Newton Brabant, Gents. &c.

Prid-gravel is paid to the lord of this manor, for the privilege of fishing for lampreys (203).

2. CLAXHILL and BOLLOE, both situate E. from the church, and under one tythingman. The property is divided between Benjamin Hyett, Esq. and the Rev. Samuel Lysons.

3. UPPER LEIGH is situate about two miles N. E. from the church.

The two principal estates belong to Sir T. Crawley Boevey, Bart. and Edmund Probyn, Esq.

4. WALMER is a distinct manor, lying chiefly on the banks of the Severn. The name is given from the circumstance of its situation near the Sea Wall: *Val* or *Wall*, Sax. and *Mere*, the sea. Anthony Kemp, Esq. was seized of the manor, and a large house called the Grange; both are now the property of Lord Newburgh, by marriage.

5. NORTHWOOD is a tything, situate N. from the church, and chiefly belonging to Lord Newburgh.

6. NETHER or LOWER LEIGH tything, N. E. from the church. The property is much divided. Anthony Ellis,

Esq. of Gloucester, is the principal landholder. Other small estates belong to Lord Newburgh, Chas. Evans, Esq. and Rev. S. Lysons.

7. BOSELEY is a tything which lies N. W. from the church.

8. CLEEVE. 9. ADSET. 10. STANTEWAY, have one tythingman. The property of these places belongs to Maynard Colchester, Esq. the Rev. Mr. Lawrence, and Mr. Boughton, &c.

11. ELTON tything lies W. from the church. The principal estates belong to Sir T. C. Boevey, Wm. Bullock, Wm. Baylis, and Mrs. Brown.

A garrison was kept at Westbury in the great rebellion, on the side of the parliament, which, according to Corbet, was treacherously sold to Sir John Wintour, by Capt. T. Davis.

The collector of extraneous fossils will be highly gratified in exploring the curious treasures of Garn's-hill (Westbury Clift), after the rocks and deposit of soil have been cleansed by a spring tide. Bones and other substances are found, embedded in a blue clay stone, always attended with, and sometimes completely enveloped in martial pyrites. The large bone mentioned by Rudder is still preserved in the church, and probably, as he supposes, did belong to an elephant. In 1634 many bones of the same description were found in this neighbourhood, collected by order of Charles I. Dion informs us, that Claudius brought elephants with him into Britain; and as the Romans had several stations on the Severn, the conjecture is not ill-founded²⁹.

Sixty-four freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 1200—1300—1651. Houses inhab. 286.

The benefice is a vicarage in the Forest deanery, in the

patronage of the custos and vicars choral of Hereford, and Richard Wetherell, A. M. is incumbent. The impropriate tythes belong to the same body, and are in lease to C. Evans, Esq. of Highgrove (203).

The more ancient church, dedicated to St. Peter, adjoins the steeple, and is now used as a school house. The church in which divine service is performed, was built on the south side of the church yard in 1530, and dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. It consists of a large nave, and chancel, with a north and south aisle of less height. The spire is lofty, and covered with shingles, or small pieces of oak board, in imitation of tiles.

In P. N. tax. the church of Westbury, with the chapel Newenh'm and Ministreworth, 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* Besides the vicar's portion, 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

In the King's books, 20*l.* 2*s.* 8½*d.*

CCX. WOOLASTON, *anciently* ODELAVESTON,

Is a parish of considerable extent, twenty-two miles s. w. from Gloucester, and washed on the E. by the Severn. The soil, extending over not less than 3000 acres, is a red loam, and is proportionably divided into pasture and arable, in both which it is alike fertile and productive; with more than 500 acres of wood. A small brook runs through it towards the Severn, and the turnpike road continues its course over an eminence towards Chepstow and South Wales, leaving the church to the right. The name is evidently derived from an ancient proprietor, and might once be called Odelave's town. The situation is peculiarly beautiful, and the prospect over the broad estuary of the Severn is bounded by the distant hills above Sodbury, while the castles of Berkeley and Thornbury,

with some other buildings of inferior consequence, fill up the middle distance, and give variety to the scene.

Domesday records William de Ow as the proprietor of this place, in Twiford hundred, which included only this parish, a part of Tidenham, and a place called Modicete, now forgotten. It is probable that Woolaston was afterwards granted to the abbey of Tintern, co. Monmouth, by Walter and Roger, brothers of Gilbert de Clare, who retook this and Tidenham from the Welch. After the dissolution, Henry, Earl of Worcester was possessed of the Grange estate, and in 1608, Edward, Earl of Worcester was lord of the manor, which has descended to the present noble proprietor, Henry, Duke of Beaufort, in whom, with the exception of a few estates belonging to W. Williams, Esq. Selwyn James, Esq. James Hammond, Gent. &c. the whole parish is vested.

The following are HAMLETS and HOUSES:—

PLUSTERWYNE, BROOKEND, NOVEREND, and HIGH WOOLASTON, hamlets; in the last of which is Mr. Hammond's estate. *The Grange, Keynsham, and Gumstod*, are the names of farms belonging to the Duke of Beaufort.

Fourteen freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 400—459—613. Houses inhabited, 97

The benefice is a rectory in the Forest deanery, with the chapels of Alvington and Lancut annexed, in the patronage of the Duke of Beaufort. John Price, B. D. is incumbent.

The tythes were given to the abbot of Tintern, with the advowson, in 1131, by William, Earl of Pembroke, and after the dissolution were held with the manor. The living had been considered as a vicarage till the rectorial tythes were recovered by Mr. Griffiths, a late incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, consists of a nave and cross aisles, with a low tower in the middle. The south door, and some other parts of the building, exhibit remains of Saxon architecture.

Value in P. N. tax. 20*l*.

Value in King's books, (discharged,) 18*l*. 11*s*. 5½*d*.

IV. St. BRIAVEL's HUNDRED.

CCXI. ABBENHALL,

Is a small parish, about three miles in circumference, including 500 acres, adjoining to Mitcheldean on the n. w. and twelve miles w. from Gloucester. The soil is in general light, and converted more to arable than pasture. Several acres of common are in an uncultivated state, and covered with fern. The name is supposed to have been given it from a house belonging to the abbot of Flaxley, here. The turnpike-road leads through this parish to Newnham.

The name does not occur in Domesday, and even so late as Edw. I. it was returned by the sheriff as united to Mitcheldean. In 1281, John de Abbenhalle held it, and his successors of the same family to 1348. The Grenders were proprietors from 1404 to 1448, when it passed by marriage to John Tiptot, Earl of Worcester, and on his death without issue, reverted to the male branch of the Grender family, but by marriage with the heiress of John Grender, it came into the family of Walwyn, about the

reign of Hen. V. Alice, daughter and heiress of William Walwyn, by marriage carried it to Thomas Baynham, of Clearwell, whose great great grandson, Thomas, was seized of in 1609. Marshall Brydges, of Worcestershire, Esq. was lord of it in 1711, and after him, John Howell, Esq. on whose death in 1778, it passed to his grandson, Edmund Probyn, Esq. (218) who is the present proprietor of the principal part of the parish.

One considerable estate belongs to Joseph Pyrke, Esq. of Littledean.

The Wilderness, situated on the brow of the hill, and commanding a most extensive prospect, belongs to Mrs. Colchester, as trustee for her son (209). The same inscription is found here as at the house in Westbury.

Gunn's Mills, formerly an iron-forge, belongs to Mr. Lloyd, who carries on a very considerable manufactory of paper, by the assistance of a stream of water, which issues from St. Anthony's Well, just within the Forest.

Seven freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 88—158—185. Houses inhabited, 38.

The Grenders, or Grendours, were a family of considerable importance in the county of Gloucester, in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Sir John Greyndour was sheriff in 1405 and 1411, and his official seal was some time since found in a field near Dursley, and is now in the possession of Mr. Shrapnell, F.A.S. of Berkeley. It is circular, with the legend S. IOHANNI GREYNDOUR, and on a quatrefoil, H.R.D.G. *Henricus Rex, Dei Gratia*³⁰.

The benefice is a rectory in the Forest deanery, and the advowson is annexed to the manor. Rev. William Probyn, M. A. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Michael, hath a nave and

south aisle, which was rebuilt in 1749, with an unembattled tower at the west end.

Value in P. N. tax. less than 4*l*.

Value in the King's books, (discharged,) 6*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*.

CCXII. ENGLISH BICKNOR, *anciently* BICANOFRE.

Is distant nineteen miles w. from Gloucester, and contains about 1600 acres, nearly divided into pasture and arable, except some rich meadow land on the banks of the Wye, which is the boundary on the north side. The soil covers a lime stone rock, and produces styre cyder of the best quality. The name is probably derived from *bec*, a river, and *ofre*, a bank, or upon; and *English* is prefixed to distinguish it from a village of the same name, on the Monmouthshire side.

Several collieries are worked in this parish, and from hence were supplied very considerable quantities of cinders, so long as they were wanted.

The manor of Bicanofre was held in the time of Edward, by Morganan, and in the time of the Conqueror, by William, son of Norman. William de Musgros was seized of it, 1287; Richard Talbot, of Goderick castle, 1339; and in the time of Edward III. the family of Ferrer, with whom it continued till 1454. The manor soon after passed to W. Wallein, or Walwyn, of Abbenhall, who was seized of it, 1472. Sir John Luterell was proprietor, 1658; and the Earl of Clanricard in 1608. It afterwards came to Benedict Hall, of Highmeadow, Esq.; from whom it descended to Lord Viscount Gage, his son-in-law, and is now the property of William Lord Viscount Gage (321).

Bicknor Court, is the property and occasional residence of George Wyrhale, Esq. It is situated near the Wye, and partakes in a high degree of the romantic character of that river. Many of its wildest features have been chastened by art, and the whole has received various improvements from the taste and judgment of the present possessor. The family of Wyrhale settled in this place towards the latter end of the 15th century, upon the marriage of W. Wyrhale with Ann Asshehurst. Before this period, Whitecliffe, near Colford was their residence, and part of the old mansion-house was standing about the middle of the last century, when it was taken down and a farm-house built on the scite³¹.

Eastbatch Court, belonged to Edward Tomkins Machin, Esq. a descendant of T. Machin, Esq. mayor of Gloucester in 1601, for the third time. He died in 1778, and left his widow a life interest in the estate, on whose death it became vested by heirship in James Davis, Esq. who resides there.

Another good estate belongs to the widow of the late William Lane, Esq. of Gloucester.

Considerable property belongs to Mr. Wm. Amberry.

Thirteen freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 300—800—465. Houses inhabited, 100.

The benefice is a rectory in the Forest deanery, formerly in the deanery of Ross, the advowson of which is by purchase in the visitors of Mr. Mitchell's foundation, Queen's coll. Oxford. Duncomb Pyrke Davis, M. A. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is large, with a nave and two aisles, and a chapel on each side of the chancel. The north chancel is separated from the nave by a Saxon, or early Norman arch. The window of

the south chapel is of a later style, ornamented with nail heads. The chapels are the dormitories of the Wyrhale and Machin families. The tower is low and battlemented.

On Chapel-hill, in the s. w. part of the parish, the ruins of an oratory are said to have been visible in the memory of some persons now, or lately living.

In P. N. taxat. The church of English Bykenore, 16*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

In the King's books, 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

CCXIII. DEAN, MITCHELDEAN, DEAN MAGNA, *anciently*
DENE,

Is a parish of small extent, and a market town irregularly built, much in ruins, and inhabited by few good families; distant from Gloucester 12 miles west. The soil, extending over 600 acres, is of the same kind as is generally found through the Forest, and the greater part of the land in the neighbourhood is in pasture. It is said that the clothing business was formerly carried on in this town, and not many years since the pin-making; but both are now lost, without being supplied by any other. The collecting of cinders for some years furnished the poor with the means of a livelihood; but that resource has failed, for reasons before given. Monday is the market-day, and two fairs are held annually, on Easter Monday, and October the tenth.

The great travelling road to Monmouth from Gloucester, now leads through this place, which with the good accommodations afforded to travellers, will in process of time be probably the occasion of raising it to a considerable rank among towns of this description.

William the son of Norman was proprietor at Domes-

day survey of two hides and a half in Dene. Whether this comprehended the whole of the manor at that time, is uncertain. The canons of Southwick, co. Hants, were seized of lands in Dene in the reign of John, while the rest remained in the King's hands. The manor was held by William de Dean 1263, and by his son 1292. John Abbenhall held it 1317, and William Dean 1319. The Grenders were proprietors in 1404, from whom it passed, as in Abbenhall (211), to the Walwyns and Baynhams, and T. Baynham had livery of the fourth part of the manor 1578, and third part of the advowson. It afterwards passed to Sir Robert Woodruff, by purchase, in 1600.—From the beginning of last century the old manor has been and still continues in the family of Colchester (209). Elizabeth Colchester, widow of the late Maynard Colchester, Esq. holds the manor and estates in trust for their son, Maynard, a minor.

Excepting one competent estate, which belongs to Jos. Pyrke, Esq. and a few small freeholds, the whole property of the parish is in the Colchester family.

In a wood upon the hill is said to be a subterraneous passage, communicating with the church, supposed with probability to have been, in feudal times, the retreat of outlaws, who sought sanctuary.

Twenty-four freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 600—590—563. Houses inhabited, 117.

The benefice is a rectory in Forest deanery, in the patronage of the Colchester family. Edward Jones, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Michael, is large, of a quadrangular form. It has a lofty nave, with an upper tier of windows on each side, two north aisles, and one on the south³². On an unembattled tower rises a spire 156 feet

high, light, and well proportioned. Early in the last century it received considerable reparations. The whole roof of oak frame, studded with roses, and other devices, of excellent carving. The aisles appear to have been built at different periods, by the varying forms of the arches; but the whole may probably be referred to the middle ages. In the south aisle is a piscina. There are considerable remains of stained glass, particularly in the E. window of the farther N. aisle, where is an assemblage of female figures, with musical instruments, and in the other panes the heads of nobles and ecclesiastics, finely wrought.

Value in P. N. tax. 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Value in King's books, 10*l.* 16*s.* 0½*d.*

CCXIV. LITTLEDEAN,

Is a small parish, twelve miles distant N. W. from Gloucester, and containing about 300 acres. The soil is of the same nature as that which is generally found in the Forest district, and principally in pasture and orcharding.

The market house which is still standing seems to shew, that this place formerly enjoyed the privilege of a market; but it is now lost. On Whitmonday, and November 26, it has a fair for pedlary.

Coal and iron ore are found in abundance here. The labouring inhabitants are chiefly employed in mining, and the manufacture of nails.

In pursuance of an act of parliament, passed in 1784, a house of correction was built here, for the Forest division, on a very convenient plan, and has been found to be productive of most salutary effects.

Littledean was the scene of some military operations in

the time of the rebellion, and the circumstances are related by Corbet, with his usual acrimony against the royalists. After their success at Newnham, a party of republicans was detached to Littledean, where the King's forces were in garrison. Lieutenant-Colonel Congrave, governor of Newnham, and Captain Wigmore, with a few private soldiers, were surrounded in some houses by a party of the horse. After having accepted quarter, a trooper happened to be killed by one of the company from the house, which so enraged the rest, that they broke in, and put them all to the sword.

In the middle of the village is a curious market cross, around the shaft of which is a low octangular roof. A pinnacle of fine Gothic workmanship finishes the summit, with small niches and statues.

This place was probably a part of Mitcheldean, as it is not mentioned in Domesday survey. The descent of it to the present family of Colchester is nearly, if not altogether, the same as that of Mitcheldean (213).

Joseph Pyrke, Esq. has a good house and estate here. Thomas Pyrke, Esq. the late proprietor, married Dorothy daughter of Richard Yate, Esq. of Arlingham, and had four sons and two daughters, whom he survived. He died 1752, and left his estates to Joseph Watkins, Esq. descended by the mother's side from a brother of the said T. Pyrke. On coming to the estates, he took the name of Pyrke, and now resides in the family mansion. This family is said on a monument in Abbenhall church to have had their residence in this neighbourhood ever since the conquest (139).

Sir T. C. Boevey, Bart. and George Skipp, Esq. are considerable proprietors here.

Greenway, late *Bonnor's*, is now vested by purchase in Mrs. Abrahall, of the Lea (217).

Twenty-nine freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 320—423—541. Houses inhabited, 108.

The benefice is an impropriation, belonging to the corporation of Gloucester, as trustees of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and is generally annexed to Newnham. The curate has a lease of the tythes, for which he pays 8*l.* a year, to the use of the hospital. James Parsons, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Ethelbert, consists of a nave and north aisle, with a chantry parallel to the chancel, and a spire of good proportion. Considerable remains of stained glass are in the north aisle and chancel. The ancient sacerdotal vestments of velvet, embroidered with the portraits of saints, are now used as a covering for the reading-desk.

Littledeane is not in charge in the King's books.

CCXV. FLAXLEY, *anciently* FLAXLYN.

Is a parish containing about 700 acres, distant eleven miles s. w. from Gloucester. The soil in general is a red marl or loam, lying on a limestone rock, and is chiefly in pasture, and about 150 acres woodland. It is intersected by the turnpike road leading from Mitcheldean to Newnham.

The abbey was founded here by Roger, second Earl of Hereford, in the reign of Stephen, for Cistercian monks. The occasion of its foundation according to Leland, who copied the account from a table hung up in the abbey church, was an accident that happened to the Earl's bro-

ther, who was killed by an arrow in hunting. It does not appear that the members of this community were ever numerous, as at the suppression there were only nine monks, and their yearly revenues were rated at 112*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* The Blessed Virgin was the tutelary saint of this monastery, as she was of most other houses of this order.

The scite of the abbey, with its appendages, was granted at the dissolution, 1545, to Sir Anthony Kingston, in whose family it continued till 1608, soon after which period it passed to Abraham Clarke, Esq. who was succeeded by his son, and on his death William Boevey, Esq. came to the possession of it. By his will, 1697, it passed, subject to jointure, to Thomas Crawley, Esq. of Gloucester, who assumed the surname of Boevey. His grandson, Sir Thomas Crawley Boevey, Bart. is now lord of the manor, and proprietor of the estates, which include the whole parish, having succeeded to the title of Baronet in 1789, on the death of Sir Charles Barrow, Bart. of Highgrove, Minsterworth, in whose patent of creation the dignity was limited to the family of Boevey.

Early in the last century, as appears by the plate in Atkyns, the ancient residence of the abbot and monks remained nearly perfect. It was low, but long in front, being sixty feet long, twenty-five feet wide, and only fourteen high; the whole arched with stone, and the vault intersected with plain and massy ribs. The first floor contained a long gallery, and at the south end one very spacious room, which was supposed to have been the abbot's chief room. The dormitories or cells were connected with the great gallery. In 1777, a considerable part of the building was destroyed by fire, and rebuilt. In 1788 the scite and floor of the chapter-house were discovered at a small depth in the garden, 45 feet long by 25 wide; at

the upper end a stone bench of circular form, and in the centre, the carved base of a pillar. Seven coffin-lids of stone were then found, sculptured with ornamented crosses, and upon one, a right hand and arm holding a crosier, probably the memorial of one of the abbots.

The mansion house, the residence of Sir Thomas Crawley Boevey, Bart. is a square building, with sashed windows, and the front towards the turnpike road. The situation is low, but the environs are beautifully picturesque and the views from the eminences extensive and interesting. The whole is well covered with wood, and affords a delightful retreat.

The Grange Estate, now vested in and the residence of the family of Skipp, is held under this manor.

Abbot's wood was given to the abbey in 1258, in lieu of the privilege of two oaks weekly, which had been granted by Richard II. for the supply of an iron forge. The manufactory is still carried on, and the iron is esteemed peculiarly good; but its goodness does not arise from any extraordinary qualities in the ore, but from the practice of working the furnace and forges with charcoal wood, without any mixture of pit-coal. The quantity of charcoal required is so considerable, that the furnace cannot be kept in "blow," or working, more than nine months successively. At this time (October 28, 1802) a cessation has taken place for nearly a year. Lancashire ore, which is brought to Newnham by sea, furnishes the principal supply: the mine found in the Forest being either too scanty to answer the expence of raising it, or when raised too difficult of fusion, and consequently too consumptive of fuel to allow the common use of it. A ton of Lancashire ore in the furnace requires fifteen or sixteen sacks of charcoal. When the furnace is at work, about twenty

tons a week are reduced to pig-iron in this state it is carried to the forges, where about eight tons a week are hammered out into bars, ploughshares, &c. ready for the smith.

The wheels which work the bellows and hammers, are turned by a powerful stream of water which rises at St. Anthony's Well(211), and after passing the works, falls into a large bason below the house, and at length empties itself into the Severn near Newnham.

Two freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 200—196—135. Houses inhabited, 28.

The benefice, in the archdeaconry of Hereford, is a donative, receiving 8*l.* a year from the impropriation, which is united to the manor, and endowed with an estate purchased for 1200*l.* by Catherina, relict of William Boevey, Esq. for that purpose. John Longden, M. A. is incumbent.

The church is small and neat, consisting of a nave and low spire covered with shingles. It was rebuilt about 1730, by Mary Pope, in pursuance of the will of the before-mentioned Catherina Boevey. She was of the family of Riches, in London, a great benefactress on many occasions, is interred at Flaxley, and has a monument erected to the memory of her virtues, in Westminster Abbey.

In P. N. tax. the bona temporalia of the Abbot of Flaxley were valued at 14*l.* in the archdeaconry of Hereford, and 6*l.* in the archdeaconry of Gloucester.

At the dissolution the value was according to Dugdale, 112*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*

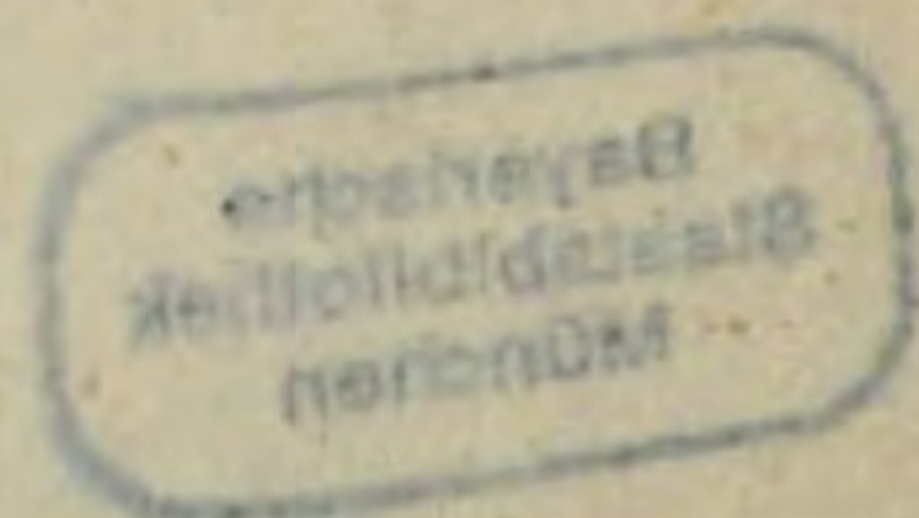
Flaxley is not in charge.

CCXVI. HEWELSFIELD, HUETSFIELD, *anciently*
HIWOLDESTONE,

Is a parish about four miles square, containing 1200 acres s. w, from Gloucester twenty-four miles. The soil is various, but chiefly inclining to a deep red loam, and nearly in equal proportions applied to pasture and arable. The meadow saffron (*colchicum autumnale*) grows in the meadows with great luxuriance, and flowers in the autumn. The name of this place has been variously written at different periods; but from the stile of it in Domesday, it may be supposed to mean, Hiwolde's town.

The inhabitants claim the privilege of the Dutchy of Lancaster (to which they pay a certain annual sum), with other liberties in the Forest, and the right of common in Harthill. The situation of the village is high and healthy, and owes many advantages to the Wye, which flows on the west, and presents declivities peculiarly abrupt, but cloathed with timber and low wood of the greatest luxuriance. Over the rich scenery of the foreground, the eye is arrested by prospects at once grand, extensive, and diversified. The long line of the Black Mountains, the towering point of the Sugar Loaf, the Skyrrid, and the magnificent swell of the Bloreng, compose the scene.

Hiwoldestone is recorded in Domesday as the property of William, son of Baderon, and by the King's order is in the Forest. John de Monemuta, constable of St. Briavel's castle, gave the vineyard, with the manor, to the hospital of the Holy Trinity, in Monmouth, of his own foundation; but Hualdesfield having escheated to the crown, Edw. I. gave it in free alms to the abbot of Tintern 1276. It continued in the same religious house till the general suppression; and was soon after vested, with other large proper-



ties, in Henry Earl of Worcester, whose noble descendant, Henry Duke of Beaufort, is now lord of the manor, but the estates belong to different proprietors.

Huelsfield Court, which claims manerial privileges, belonged to the family of Maddox, and passed by marriage to G. Gough, 1558, whose grandson Richard Gough left it in moiety between his daughters Alice, married to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton; and Eleanor, married to Sir W. Catchmay, Knt. Of the coheirs of Throckmorton, one moiety was purchased by Robert Symonds, Esq. whose descendant, T. Symonds, Esq. of Pengethly, co. Hereford, sold it to William Turner, Esq. of Upton Bishop, co. Hereford, the present proprietor and occupier of the mansion house.

The other moiety descended to Tracy Catchmay, Esq. and by marriage with his daughter passed to Major James Rooke, on whose death in 1771, it descended to General James Rooke, the present proprietor.

Another estate, late the property of Mr. Warren Jane, now belongs to the same William Turner, Esq. by purchase.

Brockwear or *Brockwere*, on the banks of the Wye, is a small village and port, from which iron and timber are conveyed to Bristol, and some other trade carried on. Mr. Selwyn James, of Chepstow, has a good estate here.

Fourteen freeholders voted in 1776.

Population 200—253—298. Houses, 64.

The benefice is annexed to Lidney, the incumbent of which has all the tythes.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, is of various architecture. Circular pillars, with unornamented capitals, support the plain round arches, which separate the nave from the north aisle. The tower, low and co-

vered with slate, rises on pointed arches between the nave and chancel. The bier is used here for carrying the dead, and a porch or lich-yate is at the E. side of the churchyard.

CCXVII. LEA, LEIGH, *anciently* LEGA,

Is situate partly in Gloucestershire, and partly in Herefordshire, and in Domesday is described as in Letberge hundred. It is distant from Gloucester w. twelve miles, and two N. from Mitcheldean. The soil is universally of a sandy loam, and applied in the proportion of about three fourths to tillage. The turnpike road from Gloucester to Hereford, by way of Ross, leads through it.

The manor, at the time of the Conqueror's survey, belonged to the Bishop of Constance, and contained one hide and two plow tillages in demesne, of the value of 20s. It afterwards came to the Marshalls, and from them descended to the Talbots.—*Big. Coll.* John Talbot, the great Earl of Shrewsbury held it, and his son after him, who was killed at Northampton, in battle, 1450. The manor and estate were then confiscated, and granted to the Throckmorton's about 1470, in which family they continued a century and a half, and are found 1608 vested in Richard Hammeline. In the same century a transfer was made to Sir Duncombe Colchester, Knt. whose descendants have continued proprietors to the present time (209) of the manor and principal part of that portion of the parish which lies in Gloucestershire.

Four freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 80—96—75. Houses inhabited, 15.

The benefice is a perpetual curacy in the Forest deanery, annexed as a chapelry to Linton, co. Hereford. The impropriation was held under the Bishop of Hereford, by the

late William Lane, Esq. of Gloucester, by whose will, on the death of his widow it will be the property of the Colchester family.

Charles Whatley, M. A. is incumbent.

The small tythes belong to the curacy, which has been twice augmented by the Queen's bounty.

The church, which stands in this county, is dedicated to John Baptist, and consists of a nave, separated from a north aisle by light pillars, and a sepulchral chapel, with a low spire at the west end.

CCXVIII. NEWLAND, *anciently* NOVA TERRA,

Is a parish containing 10,000 acres, distant w. from Gloucester twenty miles, and four E. from Monmouth. It is at least thirty miles in circumference. Through so large a district a variety of soil must necessarily occur, but in general the surface is of red loam. Pasture is more frequent than arable, and styre and other cyder liquors are produced in abundance and of good quality. About 1000 acres are in wood.

NEWLAND does not occur in Domesday, as probably at that time no grant had been made of it. Upon its being assarted and cultivated, it was called Nova Terra, (New Land) and 39 Hen. III. it is found under that name in the family of Kinerdsley. On the attainder of his son and successor, it reverted to the crown, and was regranted to Richard Harine, 1277. Sir John Ap Howel held the manor, which was forfeited by his rebellion against Ed. II. but restored by Ed. III. William Baynham levied a fine of it, 1553, after which it escheated to the King, and is now in the Right Hon. Frederick Augustus, Earl of Berk-

ley, as Lord Warden and Constable of St. Briavel's, without any estate annexed.

The village of Newland is principally built round the church, and forms an irregular square. Several families of wealth and consequence reside here in good houses, and thereby contribute very greatly to the pleasure and natural advantages of the situation.

Edmund Probyn, Esq.(211) has a good house on the west side of the church-yard, which, from the back front commands the view of a beautiful country. His estates in this parish, and other parts of the county, are very considerable.

A house and estate, late the property of Edmund Probyn, Esq. deceased, (of a different family,) now belong by heirship to William Perry, Esq. of Bristol. Mr. Probyn resided for many years at Newland, but had some time before his death in 1801, lived in a handsome house at Winterbourn (305).

Highmeadow, the seat of Lord Gage (221), lies about half a mile north of the village. The house is large and handsome, with two wings in each front, and from its elevated situation, gratifies the spectator with a pleasing bird's-eye view of the church and houses below, and an extensive prospect of the scenery around. Colonel Kyrle, of the Royalists, being posted in Highmeadow-house during the civil wars, was surprised by the Governor of Gloucester in the night.

Wye Seal is an estate belonging to the dean and chapter of Hereford, late the property of Lord Sherbourn, as lessee to that society, but now transferred by sale to the Rev. Mr. Powell, of Monmouth. Manerial rights are claimed, and the privilege of a fishery in the Wye.

At Redbrook is an iron furnace and copper works, to which belong three considerable estates, Upper Redbrook, Lower Redbrook, and Clidden Farms, containing in the whole 750 acres.

HAMLETS.—1. CLOWERWALL, anciently called *Wellington*, sometimes *Clearwell*, formerly belonged to the Joyces, and from them descended to the Grinders or Greyndours, from whom it passed, as in Abbenhall (211), to T. ap Enion or Baynham, and continued in that family till 1609; about which time it passed to Sir William Throckmorton, of Tortworth, co. Glo. Bart. by marriage with Cecily, daughter and coheiress of Thomas Baynham. It came afterwards to Thomas Wyndham, Esq. descended from an ancient family in co. Somerset. Thomas, his son, succeeded, and Charles after him, who in 1762, married Eleanor, second daughter of James Rooke, Esq. of Bicksweare (220), by Jane, daughter of Tracy Catchmay, Esq. of the same place. He died in 1801, having some time before taken the name of Edwyn, and is succeeded in the estates by Thomas Wyndham, Esq. his son and heir. The mansion-house was built by the grandfather of the present proprietor, in the Gothic style, and is surrounded by plantations arranged with taste, and without injury to the natural beauties of the situation.

Longney-farm, containing 272 acres, belongs to Thomas Wyndham, Esq.

2. COLFORD, is a small market-town. King James granted the market and two fairs, one on the 20th of June, the other on the 24th of November. The market-house was built in 1679, towards which Cha. II. contributed forty pounds.

This was the scene of some skirmishing in the civil wars. Offa's Dyke (208) passes through this hamlet.

At White Cliff is an iron blast-furnace, belonging to Messrs. Teague and Co. and near it a pottery, where casting-pots are made.

The chapel was built in the reign of Queen Anne, who gave 300*l.* towards it, the old one having been destroyed in the great rebellion. The Bishop of Gloucester appoints the curate.

The principal property belongs to Lord Gage and Edmund Probyn, Esq.

Upper and Lower Eden Wall are the property of William Partridge, Esq.

3. BREAM lies four miles s. from the church. It has a chapel, to which the curate is appointed by certain trustees.

Bream's Lodge is a large handsome house, lately belonging to Mr. Barrow Lawrence, who died in 1773. He was of the Shurdington family, and proprietor of a good estate here and other places. This estate is now vested in John Matthews, Esq. of Newnham.

Pastor's hill belonged to Mr. W. Gough, jun. great grandson of William Gough, of Willsbury, who received this estate from James Gough, Gent. younger son of Warren Gough, of Willsbury. It is now the property by purchase of William Partridge, Esq. of Monmouth.

Yorkley Court, with other property, belongs to Mr. Packer.

James Gough, by his will dated 1676, gave five shillings to the minister of Bream every time he shall read prayers and preach on Sunday in the chapel. On default, to be spent in repairing the chapel, or given to the poor.

4. LEA BAILEY, formerly the estate of John Tiptot, Earl of Worcester, and afterwards of the Talbots, Earls of Shrewsbury, though a part of the parish of New-

land, lies near to Mitcheldeane. The property is much divided, but the principal belongs to Maynard Colchester, Esq. (213)

On the west side of the church yard is a free grammar school, founded by Mr. Edward Bell, in 1632, as appears from the following inscription on the front of the school house:—“*Edwardus Bell, Gen. scholam hanc et vetus hospitium fundavit, et expiavit, anno Dom. 1632.*” The original stipend was ten pounds a year, to which Alderman Whitston, of Bristol, made by will an addition of the same value.

The same Edward Bell also founded an alm's-house (*hospitium*) for eight poor people of this parish, with 20s. a year to each.

A large hospital, with sixteen tenements for as many women and children, with a weekly allowance of two shillings each, was founded here by Mr. William Jones, a Hamburgh merchant, who also established a lectureship here, with a salary of a hundred marks yearly. The lecturer is chosen by the Company of Haberdasher's in London, out of three clergymen, whose names are returned by the parishioners. James Birt, A. M. is the present lecturer.

A hundred and two freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, Newland, 2543. Houses inhabited, 504.

The benefice is a vicarage in the Forest deanery, formerly in the deanery of Ross, in the patronage of the Bishop of Landaff. Robert Gibson, clerk, is incumbent. The tythes of all the assart or ploughed lands in the Forest were granted to the church of Newland 1336, and the great tythes were appropriated to the see of Landaff 1399.

The church, dedicated to All Saints, is large, with a tower at the west end, handsomely ornamented with pin-

nacles, and battlements with open trefoils. On the right side of the chancel is a piscina, and a lich-yate at the north east angle of the church yard.

In P. N. tax. the church of Nova t'ra, 26*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

In King's books, 18*l.* 6*s.* 10½*d.*

CCXIX. RUERDEAN, *anciently* REWARDYNE,

Is a parish distant fourteen miles w. from Gloucester, bounded on the west by the Wye, and containing 800 acres. The soil partakes of the general nature of the Forest, chiefly applied to pasture, and covering strata of coal in great abundance. The village consists of one long street, where iron cinders lie plentifully scattered, but no iron mine is worked in this parish. The prefix is probably a corruption from *River*, and was intended to distinguish it from the neighbouring places of the same name.

Ruerdean does not occur in Domesday. The first mention is made of it in 1256, when it seems to have become a distinct manor or estate, and was held by William de Alba Mara; and in 1293, Thomas Deventry was proprietor of it and St. Briavel's castle.

At the dissolution of religious houses it was parcel of the possessions of Flaxley Abbey, and was granted to Sir Anthony Kingston, 1545. The Baynhams held it in 1608, and the Vaughans after them. John Vaughan, Esq. was lord of the manor at the beginning of last century, with a good house and estate. From this family it passed to the Clarks, of the Hill, co. Hereford, and Jane Clark, spinster, surviving coheiress of Richard Clark, is now lady of the manor, with nearly the whole landed property of the parish attached to it.—*See Note* ¹⁰.

HATHEWAYS was anciently a distinct manor, and long

held by a family of the same name. In 1472 it belonged to William Walley, afterwards came to the Baynams, and is now united with the other manor, by possession of the same proprietor.

Sixty freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 500—758—845. Houses inhabited, 179.

The benefice is a curacy in the Forest deanery, in the appointment of the vicar of Walford, co. Hereford. John Houghton Beeston, A. B. is incumbent.

The impropriation is in the precentor of Hereford.

In P. N. tax. Walford is mentioned with its chapels, of which Ruerdean was one; and hence it is supposed that a chapel was at that time standing, and the Saxon construction of the interior arch of the porch, shews *that* to have been a part of it. Over the arch are the figures of St. George and the Dragon, in relievo. The other parts of the church are of a later style. The west window is large and beautiful, and was probably the work of the 14th century. The whole is spacious, and consists of a nave and south aisle, with a handsome spire erected at the west end on an unembattled tower. In the chancel is a piscina, and from the south aisle there was once an opening, now stopped up, through which the elevation of the host was seen. The lich-yate is here on the south side of the church yard.

CCXX. *St. BRIAVEL's, anciently St. BRULAIS,*

Contains nearly 4000 acres of cultivated, commonable, and forest land, and is distant twenty-three miles s. w. from Gloucester. The soil varies with the situation of clay or sand, of which about 800 acres are woodland, and the rest is nearly divided into arable and pasture. Styre cyder of prime quality is made here. Scoria or cinders

are found in great plenty a little below the surface of the ground. A turnpike road from Ross to Aust passage leads through this village.

There is no mention of St. Briavel's in Domesday; but in later records it is noticed as belonging to the following persons:—Jeffrey Wether 1219, William de Lesebroke 1261, Walter Wether 1270, the crown 1276, Hugh de Despencer the younger 1319. William de Staure 1324, and Robert de Aure 1326.

The castle was founded by Miles Fitz Walter, Henry I. to curb the incursions of the Welch. In this family it continued about a century, when it was seized by the crown, which has appointed the constables ever since. The present Earl of Berkeley is the twenty-seventh on the roll of record from 1215. This castle once enjoyed peculiar privileges, exercising an exclusive jurisdiction, and has long since had the wardenship of the Forest annexed. The scite of the castle includes within the moat a compass of 500 yards, and is extra parochial. The north west front only has escaped the ravages of time. It is formed by two circular towers, of three stories. On either side a narrow elliptic gateway. Within are hexagonal rooms, with walls eight feet thick, one of them serving for the prison of the hundred. Three or four other rooms are used for the purpose of holding courts. The keep, with two other smaller towers, fell down in 1752, and in 1774 the demolition was almost complete.

The village seems, from some ruins lately discovered, to have been formerly more extensive than at present. The market anciently granted by Ed. II. and the exemption from all tolls, pontage, pavage, and other customs granted to the burgesses of the town by Ed. III. are now disused and obselete. A right of common in a wood

called Hudnalls, confirmed by Cha. II. is still exercised. It is said that the right was originally granted on the same terms as Lady Godiva obtained the privileges for Coventry. Each inhabitant now contributes annually one penny to purchase bread and cheese, which are given on Whitsunday to every claimant, as a condition of the charter. The inhabitants have also a right of common of pasture, and common of estovers in the Forest.

The Earl of Berkeley is lord of the manor, and paramount of the hundred, but the property is much divided.

The Hatheways were anciently possessed of lands in this parish, and gave name to a manor, which passed to the Baynham's in the same way as Ruerdeane(219), and is now, with a good estate, the property of Thomas Wyndham, Esq. of Clearwell.

Bickwear, on the banks of the Wye, an ancient seat, was formerly a parcel of the possessions of the Bishop of Llandaff, and afterwards of the abbey of Tintern. It is now the property of General Rooke, to whose father it came by marriage with Joan, the only daughter of Tracy Catchmay, Esq. The family of Rooke are from Kent. James Rooke, Esq. rebuilt the mansion-house, 1755. This is said to be an ancient manor, and to owe no homage to the castle, as is the case with other manors in the neighbourhood.

Aylesmore house belonged to the family of Bond, the co-heirs of which, the relict of — Rosser, and her sister, — Bond, joined in the sale of it to Mr. John Mudway, or Muthway, the present proprietor.

Willsbury has been vested in the family of Gough for many generations. By marriage with one of the co-heiresses of William Warren, of St. Briavel's, they became possessed of this and other estates. James Gough, Esq.

who took the name of Aubrey, from his mother's ancestors, sold it to Tho. Evans, Gent. the present proprietor.

Stow Grange is the property of Kedgwyn Hoskins, Esq. of Clearwell.

Marksbrook formerly belonged to the family of Dale, and now by purchase to John Griffiths, Esq. of Monmouth, a descendant of the same family on the female side.

Dunkelns, formerly in the tenure of the Barrows, is now vested in John Hughes, Gent.

Hoggins, formerly belonging to the same family, is now the property of William Allen, Esq. a descendant of the female line.

In a ground called Closetuft, a mile and a half N. W. is a stone set up on end, ten feet high, six broad, and five thick, which is supposed to have been erected by the ancient Britons, probably a pillar of memorial. No stone of similar component parts is found in the neighbourhood.

Thirty-four freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 400—766—670. Houses inhabited, 144.

The benefice is a vicarage in the Forest deanery, annexed to Lidney. The impropriation belongs to the chapter of Hereford. The rectorial tythes, late in lease to Mr. Joseph Clewer, came, on his death, among several relations, sister's children.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, consists of a nave and transept, with a low tower in the middle, pinnacled and embatteled. The south transept is separated by plain circular arches on octagon pillars, and the north by arches of the same kind on round pillars. The whole building is of an earlier date than the fourteenth century, and the transepts probably more modern.

No mention is made of it in P. N. tax.

CCXXI. STAUNTON, STANTON, *anciently* STANTONE,

Is two miles w. from Coleford, twenty-three s. w. from Gloucester, and contains 2885 acres. The soil is thinly scattered over a limestone rock, and generally in tillage. The name is derived from the Saxon *Stan*, a stone, and *ton*, a town; either meaning, the town on the stone rock, or referring particularly to the curious remain of antiquity in this parish, called *Buckstone*³³.

Stantone is mentioned in Domesday, as a member of Blachelaue hundred, held by Turston, the son of Rolf, and taxed at five hides. John Walding, who is afterwards called de Stanton, held it 1285. From this family it passed to the Baynhams, and from them, 1558, to the Brains. By marriage with one of the sisters and coheir-esses of Robert Brain, it passed to Sir Wm. Winter, of Lidney, and from this family to the Halls, of Highmeadow (218). Sir Thomas Gage possessed it, by marriage with Beata Maria Theresa, daughter and heiress of Benedict Hall, Esq. Sir Thomas was created Viscount Gage, of Castle Island, co. Kerry, and Baron Gage, of Castlebar, co. Mayo, 1720. On his death, 1754, William Hall, Viscount Gage, succeeded. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sampson Gideon, Esq. and sister of Sir Sampson Gideon, Bart. of Spalding, co. Lincoln, and is the present lord of the manor, and proprietor of nearly the whole of the parish.

A road, certainly *Roman*, leads from Stanton up to the Kymin, on the way to Monmouth, and seems to have been the ancient route from the last-mentioned place to Gloucester. Here are many indications of a Roman settlement; vestiges of a considerable entrenchment appear

in the vicinity of the church, and great quantities of scoria are scattered about the fields.

The *Kymin* is now become a place of considerable celebrity and resort, on account of the NAVAL TEMPLE which has been erected on its summit, as a public monument of the splendid victories obtained over the enemies of England, on the seas, at different periods, but particularly in the last war.

The building is a square of thirteen feet, situate on the ridge of a rock, and inclosed by a high wall. The broad frieze on the four sides is adorned with medalions of the most distinguished British commanders, with the dates of their victories. The names of BOSCAWEN, MITCHELL, KEITH, PARKER, HOOD, HOWE, DUNCAN, WARREN, GELL, NELSON, VINCENT, THOMPSON, RODNEY, HAWKE, and BRIDPORT, are recorded, with the different flags under which they fought, decorated with appropriate and emblematical devices. The Temple is with great propriety dedicated to her Grace the Dutchess of Beaufort, not only as a considerable benefactress, but also as a daughter of the late Admiral Boscawen. In every direction from this spot the views are extensive, grand, and often highly picturesque.

Eleven freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 220—220—159. Houses inhabited, 42.

The benefice is a rectory, in the Forest deanery, in the patronage of Lord Gage. William Barnes, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to All Saints, consists of a nave and north aisle, with a handsome pinnacled tower. The separating arches are pointed and canopied, supported by plain round pillars, having their capitals alternately foli-

ated. The pulpit, now not used, is of stone, as also the font, both the works of an early period, and probably coeval with the building: the latter is ornamented with quatrefoil and other Gothic devices. In the south chancel is a piscina. The square Gothic windows of the north aisle exhibit the architecture of a less remote æra.

In P. N. tax. the church of Stanton, 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

In the King's books (discharged) 7*l.*

V. BLEDISLOE HUNDRED.

CCXXII. AWRE, *anciently* AURE,

Is situated on a tongue of land, which is bounded by the Severn on the N. W. and W. at the extremity whereof is Awre Point. The whole parish consists of about 4000 acres, and the proportion of pasture to arable is nearly three parts to one. The soil adjoining the river is a deep clay, but the uplands are more mixed with sand. The name is supposed to be derived from *Aure*, British for *yellow*, which in some places is the colour of the soil. Others derive it from Gilbert de Awre, who is said to have come over with the Conqueror, but as it is observed that no such name occurs in the roll of Battle Abbey or Scriven, it is more probable that he took the name himself from the place.

A small rivulet runs on the north and separates this parish from Newnham, and another called Lynch Brook makes a boundary on the south.

The width of the Severn here is more than two miles, and by a bar of sand, called the Noose, lying opposite to the church, the navigation is rendered unsafe. A few years since the danger was increased by the wreck of a Newnham brig, but this has since been raised. The tide is sometimes very violent here, and occasions much inundation and mischief from the forcing down of the sea walls. In the register it is recorded, that on January 9, 1737, about nine at night a violent storm of wind arose at the time of high water, which broke down the sea wall, and laid the whole level 50 feet under water, which comprehended at least 312 acres. These inundations used to produce ague, but by a proper attention to the ditches, or reens, in keeping them open, so that the water may flow back, it has in a great measure disappeared.

The tide is found at this time to gain considerably upon the land between Breame's Pill and a little to the north of the Woodend, where its encroachment is checked by an embankment of stone and earth, under the care of the commissioners of sewers of the Lower Level.

The turnpike road to Chepstow intersects this parish.

Aure was part of the ancient demesne of the crown. King Edward held it before the conquest, and Henry I. afterwards. Henry de Bohun held it 1 John, and released all his right to the King; and in the fifth year of the same reign Walter de Aure had a grant of it for his life. By the sheriff's return 9 Ed. I. it appears, that Thomas Berkeley, sen., Maurice Berkeley, and Margaret Mortimer had the lordship of Aure, in which last family a certain share continued till the death of Maud de Mortimer, 1301, when her estate descended to Edmond, son and heir of Earl Roger, her husband; and on his death, 1303, Margaret his widow was seized of Awre. In 1369 Sir Mau-

rice, son of Thomas de Berkeley, held the manor of Awre with its members, Etloe, and Blakeney, and the hundred of Blideslow. Sir Thomas de Berkeley was seized of them, 1418, from whom they passed by marriage with Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Thomas Lord Berkeley, to Richard de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. They had three daughters, of whom, Elizabeth married George Neville, Lord Latimer, and carried it into that family, whose descendant, John Lord Latimer, was seized of it 1531. Sir Edward Wintour was lord of the manor of Aure 1608, and towards the latter end of that century the corporation of Gloucester, as trustees under the will of Sir Thomas Rich, purchased, and still are lords of this and Etloe manors, with a considerable estate portioned into five farms. The customary lands in these two manors descend to the youngest son.

TYTHINGS. 1 AURE. This tithing contains 1187 acres, of which 900 are pasture, 280 arable, and 7 woodland; $24\frac{1}{2}$ acres of the pasture, and those only in the parish, are tythe free. It is supposed that they are the glebe lands mentioned in the endowment of 1478, but when or how separated, cannot now be ascertained.

Fieldhouse estate, formerly belonged to John Trippett, Esq. and came by marriage with Elizabeth his daughter to Mr. W. Presbury, who died in 1767, and left three daughters, coheiresses, who by marriage carried the undivided estate to Messrs. Hooper, Cadogan, and Terrett. Elizabeth, first married to Hooper, and afterwards to James Dee, now lives in the estate.

Woodend house, with the garden and some land, has within the last twenty years been washed away by the tides, and therewith will probably be lost, as it is deemed, the fabulous account which is given of Sternhold having

been born at Woodend, and Hopkins at Woodside. The arms of Tudor, and a verse from Romans, c. 13. were found on one of the walls. It is however remarkable, that Woodend has long been, and now is the property of a Hopkins, and Woodside did once belong to the Sternholds.

The corporation of Gloucester have considerable property in this tything.

John Awre, a descendant of the ancient family, lately died, seized of a copyhold estate, leaving a widow and several children.

2. BLIDESLOW or BLIDESLAU, which gives name to the hundred, lies N. W. from the church. It belonged to Tip-tot, Earl of Worcester, about 1431, and passed successively to the Grenders, Walwyns, and Baynhams, which last had a seat here, 1574.

The house and estate belonging to Eustace Hardwicke, Esq. descended by marriage of his daughter to Captain Walters, of Bristol, and were lately sold by his son to Mr. T. Ambrose, of Blakeney, and the mansion is now converted into a farm house.

The principal house is one newly erected by Mr. John Wade, called *New house*, which commands a distant view over the Severn. He is a considerable landholder.

Bledisloe Court farm, modern built, lately belonging to Mr. Bellamy, of Shipston upon Stour, is now with the estate by purchase the property of T. Barber, Gent.

Mrs. A. Poole Bathurst, as lady paramount of the manor, appoints the chief constable, and holds courts baron and leet.

3. ETLOE tything and dutchy are in the parochial rates united. Charles Evans, Esq. by marriage with the daughter of Sir Charles Barrow, who was proprietor by purchase from the Cooks of Highnam, is now lord of the manor of Etloe Dutchy, with some property.

Matthew A'Deane, Esq. of Alderley, has a good house and estate here and in other parts of the parish.

Other estates belong to Rev. Anselm Jones, of Naunton, and Dean Bayly, Esq. of Bristol.

4. HAGLOE, about a mile and half south-west from the church.

Hagloe house, with a considerable estate, is the property of John Byrkin Thomas, Esq. He is grandson of John Byrkin, Esq. of the same place, who dying in 1740, left three daughters. Mary died unmarried; Elizabeth was married to the late Rob. Boy, Esq. of Hagloe house, and died without issue; Susannah was married to Mr. James Thomas, father of John Byrkin Thomas, Esq.

Poulton's Court, belonged to Sir William Poulton in the reign of Hen. IV. by marriage with an heiress of the family of Wrath, descended by the female line from the Willingtons(301). It was granted to the Duke of Somerset on his attainder; and to William Bridgeman and Richard Willyson 1558. In 1661 Charles Bridgeman sold it to Jonathan Blackwell, of Bristol, gent. whose son Jonathan devised it by will, 1744, to Mr. Samuel Kellican, with directions to assume the name of Blackwell. In 1766 he sold it to James Thomas, Esq. of Oatfield in this parish, with all its manerial rights, from whom it descended to John Byrkin Thomas, Esq. the present proprietor.

The manor of Poulton, or Poulton's Court, includes the whole tything of Hagloe, and part of Bledisloe³⁴.

Pyrton lies a little below this; and from hence is a passage over the Severn to Slimbridge.

5. BLAKENEY is three miles s. w. of Awre church, a large village in the hundred of St. Briavel's, through which the road is continued to Chepstow. The earliest account of this place is found in 1385. It has two fairs

annually, April 12, and November 12. A place of the name of *Pomerton* is mentioned by Atkyns, as once a large town, but then in ruins. The oldest inhabitants have no traditional account of it. Rudder suggested the possibility of its being the same place as *Pontune*, mentioned in Domesday, which might have taken its name from the bridges built over the streams that run down to Bream's Pill. The change from *Pontune* to *Pomerton* is not difficult.

Hayfield is the residence of Mr. T. Barber, purchased, with a good estate, of the representatives of Miss Mary A'Deane, the late proprietor, who was the only daughter of James A'Deane, Esq. by Margaret, the only daughter of Gough Chinn, Esq. of Sempstye, who died 1758.

Sempstye, or, according to its modern name, *Woodside*, belongs to Selwyn James, Esq. of Chepstow. It was, during the life of Miss Mary A'Deane, her property and residence. The house has been unoccupied since her death, about 1790, and is much dilapidated.

Near Blakeney, in a ground called Churchcroft, were found, some years since, considerable ruins under ground, consisting of four semicircular walls, twelve or fifteen feet in diameter, the ends of which crossed each other, with two square rooms irregularly connected with the other building, in one of which were bricks or tiles for pavement, from seven to fourteen inches square. The search was occasioned by a traditional story, that the old church was intended to be built there, but that what was done in the day was removed in the night to the present situation.

The old wharf, with some common field and intermixed lands, to the amount of 507 acres, was inclosed in 1796, at the expence of 1336*l.* which was defrayed by a very

advantageous sale of part of the wharf, but there was no commutation for tythes.

The New Wharf, containing nearly 49 acres, is ground gained from the Severn, and still increasing.

Forty freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 700—755—952. Houses, 191.

The benefice is a vicarage in the Forest deanery. It was given by Thomas, Lord Berkeley, in 1352, to the priory of Lanthony, in exchange for the manor of Coaley, and in the same year was appropriated by the Bishop of Hereford, under the pretext that great expences and losses had been sustained by the priory, in the entertainment of strangers, and by inundations and fire.

From the dissolution, the rectory and advowson remained in the crown till 1608, when they were granted to Thomas James, Esq. of Lidney, with a rent of 13*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* reserved to the crown. In 1657, the Company of Haberdashers in London became the proprietors of both, with the chapel of Blakeney. Various arrangements have been made since that time between them and the vicar, but in 1786 all the great tythes were leased to the vicar for 21 years, with the reservation of 50*l.* a year to the chaplain of Blakeney. Usually the vicarage and chapelry have been held by two distinct persons, but are now both vested in Charles Sandiford, Clerk, M.A. The patrons however reserve a right of dissolving this union on any future presentation. The above-mentioned quit-rent is paid by the vicar as lessee, to the crown.

By a decree of the Court of Exchequer in 1769, a *modus* for milk, and another for fruit were set aside.

The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, consists of a nave and aisle, of considerable length, which are sepa-

rated by large round pillars, and unornamented pointed arches. The tower, containing six bells, is strong, and finished with battlements.

Blakeney chapel, dedicated to All Saints, was enlarged by subscription in 1748, and other alterations and additions were made, which are recorded on the front of the gallery.

Value in P. N. tax. 40*l.* before the appropriation.

Ditto in the King's books, 10*l.* 5*s.*

CCXXIII. ALVINGTON,

Is a parish containing 1000 acres, six miles N. E. from Chepstow, and twenty-two from Gloucester. The soil is principally of sand, in some places clay, and equally divided between arable and pasture. It is separated from Lidney by the brook Coln, and is bounded on the S. E. by the Severn. The turnpike-road leads through the parish to Wales.

Atkyns, upon the authority of Camden, supposes Alvington to have been the *Abone* of Antoninus, and in Bigland's Collections, the same opinion is adopted. To this opinion, it may be objected, that no Roman remains, which are so plentiful in almost every part of the neighbourhood, are here to be discovered³⁵.

Alvington is not mentioned in Domesday. In 1265, the manor belonged to the prior of Lanthony near Gloucester, with markets and fairs. At the dissolution it was granted, with divers lands, to Arthur Porter. In 1551, to Sir William Herbert, and in 1608, was vested in William Compton, Esq. From that family it passed to the family of Higford, of Dixton, co. Glouc. and on the death of the

Rev. Mr. Higford, in 1795, it descended to John Parsons, Esq. of Prestbury, and the two sons and two daughters of Mrs. Davis, of Chepstow(56).

Alvington Court, a building of considerable antiquity, with an estate, belongs to Mr. Eaton.

A paper-mill belongs to Mr. Jenkins, of Chepstow.

Two freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 200— —, —211. Houses inhabited, 40.

The benefice is annexed to Wollaston, and the chapel, dedicated to St. Andrew, is small, with an aisle on the south side, belonging to the lord of the manor. The tower stands at the west end, partly of stone, and partly of wood, apparently in the state of its original building, which must have been subsequent to 1300, since in P. N. tax. no church is mentioned. The separating arches, which are plain and pointed, are supported by octagon pillars. On the left entrance of the porch is a stair-case, leading up to what probably was a room. This is not unfrequent in the churches of this neighbourhood. At the N. E. angle of the church-yard is a lich-gate.

In P. N. tax. among the temporal possessions of the prior of Lanthony, near Gloucester, is the following record:—

“The prior of Lenton, near Glouc. holds Ayllington with Aylbriton, and has there three carucates of land, worth 13s. 4d. yearly.”

CCXXIV. LIDNEY, *anciently LEDENAI*,

Is an extensive parish, nine miles N. E. from Chepstow, nineteen s. w. from Gloucester, and containing 4710 acres. The Severn is the boundary on the east, which, in its broadest part, is not less than eight miles. In so

large a district, the lands must vary a good deal; but, in general, except in the marsh, the Forest soil prevails.—Pasture and marsh meadow bear the greatest proportion: the remainder is occupied with arable, and 1180 acres of woodland. The channel of the Severn in the lapse of years has taken a different course; in consequence of which several hundred acres of rich pasture, called the New-Grounds, have been gained. The turnpike road from Gloucester to Chepstow leads through the middle of this parish.

The various remains of Roman antiquities which have been discovered in this district, sufficiently prove it to have been an important station of that people. On an eminence in the park, the outworks of a speculum are easily traced, and the ruins of an hypocaust, or bath of oval form, whose diameters are 17 and seven feet, are in good preservation. The walls beneath the surface are still entire. Among other remains are two large statues of stone, coins of the latter empire, fragments of pottery, and tesserae, which once composed a pavement³⁶. The whole scite occupies about eight acres within the park pale. From these appearances Rudder attempts to fix the *Abone* of Antoninus at this place³⁷.

In the wood above the mansion house is a cavern, called the *Scowls*, to which the entrance is between long unwrought stones, serving as pillars to support a rocky roof. Within it is about 18 feet long and nine wide. This was unquestionably an old mine.

Coal in great abundance, and yellow ochre, iron ore, and scoria, are found here, and considerable works are also carried on for smelting and manufacturing iron.

Puddling works belong to Messrs. Pidcock and Humphris. Sixty tons of iron are said to be turned out a

week. The works are erected on a stream, called the Canop, which rises near Bromley Quarry.

Domesday mentions two manors, one of six hides, the property of William Fitz Baderon; the other of Earl William, containing eleven hides.

The principal manor was in the Beauchamp family for many centuries. Henry Earl of Warwick held it in 1229, and Henry, who was created Duke of Warwick, died seized of it 1445. Anne de Beauchamp, his sister (and heir on the death of his infant daughter) the wife of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, succeeded him. He was called the King Maker; but being at length slain in Barnet-field, his widow Anne was dispossessed of her vast estates, having taken part in the designs of her husband, and her two daughters were put in possession. Isabel was married to George Duke of Clarence, and Anne to Richard, then Duke of Gloucester, but afterwards King Richard III. When Henry VII. came to the throne, he procured an act of parliament to disinherit the daughters, under pretence of the injustice done to their mother; but with the real view of securing the possession of their immense property for himself; which he did by prevailing upon her to levy a fine of Lidney and many other manors to him, 1488(69). This manor continued in the crown till a grant was made of it, under the title of Warwick and Neville's lands, to Sir T. Seymour, Lord High Admiral, in 1547. On his attainder it reverted to the crown, and was again granted to Sir William Wintour, for his services against the Spanish armada, by Queen Elizabeth, 1558. He built a manor house called White Cross, which during the civil wars was garrisoned by his grandson, Sir John, for the King. Of the heirs of Sir John it was purchased by Benj. Bathurst, Esq. younger brother of Allen, first Earl Bath-

urst. He was succeeded by Thomas Bathurst, Esq. who died in 1792, leaving Mrs. Anne Poole Bathurst, his widow, in possession of the manor and estates for her life. On her demise it will devolve to Charles Bragge, Esq. member of Parliament for the city of Bristol. He is son of Charles Bragge, Esq. late of Mangotsfield, co. Gloucester, by Anne, eldest daughter of Benjamin Bathurst, Esq. and Finetta, daughter and heiress of Henry Poole, of Kemble, co. Wilts.

The present lady was sole heiress and daughter of Sir William Fazakerley, of Totteridge, co. Hertford.

Of the other manor, now consolidated by unity of possession, Hatheway and Butler are mentioned in the early records as proprietors. In 1474 it belonged to Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, as appears by the escheator's roll, since which period the manors have probably been united.

The old mansion house, large and commodious, was repaired by Benjamin Bathurst, Esq. It is surrounded by an extensive park, well wooded, and in many passages high picturesque.

Sir John Wintour was a zealous partizan in the royal cause, and by his valour, influence, and activity, very much annoyed the plans of Parliament, and checked their forces in the Forest district. The character drawn of him by Corbet, p. 60, is a remarkable instance of party enthusiasm:—"Sir John Winter was wise for himselfe, nimble in inferiour businesses, delighted rather in petty and cunning contrivance then open gallentry, referred all his industry to his own house or the limmits of the Forrest, vexed his neighbours more then weakened his enemy, and advanced the catholike cause no other way, then by the plague and ruine of the countrey." On the restoration,

however of Charles II. the government set so high a value on his former services, as to renew an imprudent grant, made in a former reign, which but for some timely restraints would have operated to the complete destruction of the Forest (*page 6.*)

TYTHINGS and HAMLETS. 1. AILBERTON is a tything about a mile w. from the church. From the family of Harpere, through several possessors, it passed to the Berkeleys, of Kingsweston. Sir William Berkeley lost it by joining the party of Richard III. The Wintour family had it afterwards, and united it to the manerial estate, to which the greater part of the property in this parish is now attached.

Prior's Meen belonged to the priory of Lanthony, and was granted to Sir W. Wintour, 1541. It is recorded in the temporal possessions of that religious house, as containing three carucates of land (223).

A small chapel stands in this tything, in which also is the mansion house before mentioned.

Here likewise is the principal repository of Roman antiquities. Without fixing this as the *Abone* of Antoninus, it is easy to account for the appearance of fortifications and other works, by recollecting the necessity of keeping up a regular chain of posts on each side of the Severn, to guard the conquered country, and prevent surprise.

2. PYRTON or PURTON, a tything three miles N. E. from the church. It appears to have had the same proprietors as Ailberton, and the manor is now united to Lidney³⁸.

Lord Elliott is proprietor of a considerable estate formerly belonging to the family of Doring, and purchased by his Lordship's ancestors.

Another estate the ancient property of the family of Doring, is now vested in John Hopton, Gent.

The passage over the Severn from this place, is the property of Lord Elliott.

On the shores of the river and under the projecting cliffs in the neighbourhood, are frequently found (and particularly after a storm from the east, or when the soil has been loosened by frost) many beautiful specimens of fossils, among others the encrini or asteria³⁹.

3. NASS, a tything two miles s. e. from the church. It is mentioned in Domesday, under the name of Nest, as a distinct manor of five hides, held by Earl Herald. It was afterwards the property of the Greyndours, and descended to the Baynhams.

The ancestor of the present proprietor, Roynon Jones, Esq. who claims manerial rights(207), obtained it early in Elizabeth's reign, and built the mansion house.

This tything derives its name from *Næsse*, Sax. the point of land which projects into the Severn.

4. ALLISTON, a tything two miles n. from the church, held in the 17th century by the Morgans.

The widow of Edward Jones, Esq. late of Monmouth, has a good estate here.

Soilwell or *Sully*, is a large farm, the property of John Townsend, Esq. of Chiswick, co. Middlesex, by purchase. This place is memorable for the share it had in the civil war. The parliamentary forces made it a temporary garrison for blocking up of Lidney, and by a feigned retreat of the main body, drew out Sir John Wintour from his strong hold at Lidney, and cut off many of his troops. In this engagement, one of the Wintours fell by a shot in his forehead, and his scull is said to be now in the family vault, marked with the hole where the ball entered.

Yarkley farm belongs to — Baker, Esq.

NEWARNE is a hamlet, and the only part of the parish

which has a continuation of houses. Mrs. Lewis, daughter of Richard Morgan, Esq. of Hurst, had a good house here, which passed by will to — Peade, and on his death to his sons.

Mrs. Bathurst claims as paramount lady of Bledisloe or Lidney hundred, and holds a court for Ailberton, Nass, Pyrton, and Alliston.

Twenty-five freeholders voted in 1776.

Population of Lidney and Ailberton, 700—661—783.
Houses inhabited, 186.

The benefice is vicarial, in the Forest deanery, in the patronage of the chapter of Hereford, who have likewise the impropriation, formerly belonging to the abbey of Lyra, in Normandy. Charles Morgan, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is large, consisting of a nave, two aisles, and a lofty spire. The chantry, at the east end of the north aisle, was built and endowed by John Chardborough and Julian his wife, 1376. John Cook, the last incumbent, retired with a pension. The pillars are circular and plain, supporting plain pointed arches; the windows in the north chancel are square Gothic, but the general stile is that of the middle ages. A lich-yate leads into the churchyard. A good parsonage-house is conveniently situated near the church⁴⁰.

In P. N. tax. the church of Ledeney, with the chapel, 53*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* Vicar's portion, 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

In the King's books, 24*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

VI. DUDSTAN and KING's BARTON HUNDRED.—*Upper Part.*

THESE united hundreds were anciently within the county of the city of Gloucester. By a grant of Richard I. they were separated from the county at large, and continued so till the present charter was granted in the reign of Charles II. in which it is provided, that these hundreds, with the inhabitants and places contained in them, shall for ever after remain parcels of the county of Gloucester. Sir Berkeley William Guise, Bart. is lord paramount of this hundred and manor.

CCXXV. BADGEWORTH, BEGGEWORTH, *anciently* BEIEWRDE,

Is a parish of large extent, five miles N. E. from Gloucester. The soil, extending over 3140 acres, is universally a deep clay, and nearly divided between pasture and tillage. *Worth* or *worde*, signifying in Saxon a *village* or *mansion*, it may, in general be inferred, when this is the termination of a name, that the place was the residence or property of some Saxon chief, of whom nothing farther has been recorded. The high hills above Crickley defend this village from the eastern winds.

This manor, with ten others in Gloucestershire, and a hundred and four in other parts of the island, was given to William de Owe, or de Ewe, Earl of Ewe in Normandy, by the Conqueror, as a reward for his great services.

But in the following reign, joining the party of Robert Curthose against the King, he lost his estates, which were forfeited to the crown. Gilbert Marshal, so called on account of his office of Earl Marshal to the King, had the grant of this manor, which descended to his grandson, and for want of issue went to William, Earl of Pembroke, brother of the last. His sons, William, Richard, Gilbert, Walter, and Anselm, successively held it, but all dying without issue, it was divided among their five sisters, co-heiresses. From this division of the property, there arises considerable difficulty in ascertaining with accuracy the distinct possessions of the different persons who are recorded as having been seized of the whole or parts of Badgworth, from Hen. III. to the reign of Mary; when John Lord Chandos died seized of Badgworth, and Ed. Lord Chandos after him, who was succeeded by Giles Bridges, who had livery of that and the Grange, and tenements called Crippits, 15 Eliz. George Gwinnett, Esq. was lord of the manor in 1712, descended from an ancient family in North Wales. He married Mary, daughter of Jeremiah Gough, Esq. of London, by whom he had a son, George, who took his mother's name, and succeeded to the manor and estates; but he died at the age of thirty-five. Mrs. Gwinnett, his mother, then became proprietor, and was married a second time to Thomas Chester, Esq. of Knole, in the parish of Almondsbury, uncle to the late Bromley Chester, Esq. She survived Mr. Chester, and dying in 1782, left the manor of Badgworth to William Catchmayd, Esq. of Monmouth, who, in pursuance of her will, took the name of Gwinnett, and dying without issue in 1793, was succeeded by his brother Geo. Gwinnett, Esq. who is now lord of the manor, and proprietor of a considerable estate.

The manor house is situated in Great Shurdington.

HAMLETS. 1. BADGWORTH, where the church stands, near to which is a good estate, belonging to William Viner, Esq. of Gloucester. This is a moiety of the glebe lands anciently belonging to the nunnery of Usk⁴¹.— In 1640, C. Norwood, Esq. sold the whole to Thos. Rogers, Esq. who left it by will, in 1680, to Thomas Machen and Paul Dodwell, Esq. in equal shares, but annexing the house to the former, who sold his moiety to Mr. S. Burroughs 1704, from whom it descended to Mr. Benj. Burroughs, and was sold by him 1788 to the present owner.

The other moiety has descended in the family of Dodwell, and was the property of Mrs. Tracy of Sandiwell, at her death in 1800. She was daughter and heir to Sir W. Dodwell, and dying without will, the right of inheritance has not yet been determined.

2. LITTLE SHURDINGTON. In this hamlet is *Greenway*, the estate and residence of Mrs. Lawrence, relict of Rob. Lawrence, Esq. The family of Edwards, which was settled here, became extinct, by the death of William Edwards, Esq. in 1774, and the estate devolved to his co-heirs, Mary, the wife of Robert Lawrence, Esq. and Anne, first the wife of Mr. Blanch, afterwards of S. Walbank, Esq.

The mansion house is handsomely built, in the style of the 17th century.

William Lawrence, Esq. the heir to the great estates of this family in Badgworth, and other places, is a descendant from Nicholas Lawrence, Esq. who was third son of Sir R. Lawrence, Knt. about 1454, the sixth in succession from Sir Robert Lawrence, Knt. of Ashton-hall, co. Lanc.

3. LITTLE WITCOMB, in which Doddington Hunt, Esq. has a good estate, formerly belonged to the Stephens family, of Lyppiatt.

4. BENTHAM, in which is a manor, called Hunt Court, and a mansion-house of the same name. At the beginning of the last century it belonged to the family of Hinson, and was afterwards sold to Charles Hyett, Esq. of Gloucester, and is now the property of his grandson, Benjamin Hyett, Esq. of Painswick. The estate attached to the manor is very considerable, about an eighth part of the whole parish. The old manor house is taken down, and a new farm house built near the scite.

5. CRICKLEY gives name to an estate belonging to Doddington Hunt, Esq.

6. Part of GREAT SHURDINGTON, where the manor house is situated.

7. BUCKLAND's place, granted by Richard Buckland, 3 Henry VIII. to Alderman Cook, of Gloucester, and by Dame Joan Cook bequeathed, with other estates, to the Corporation of Gloucester, in trust for the use of the poor of St. Bartholomew's hospital.

In the quarries of the hill above Crickley are found the echinus, and petrifications of the bivalve kind.

There is a spring of mineral water at Cold Pool, in quality resembling that at Cheltenham.

Forty freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 360—500—603. Houses inhabited, 108.

The benefice is a vicarage in Winchcomb deanery, in the patronage of the representatives of the late William Tracy, of Sandywell, and C. Coxwell, M. A. is incumbent.

The rectory and advowson of the vicarage belonged to the nunnery of Usk, co. Monmouth, and were granted to James Gunter and Walter Lewis, at the dissolution, 37 H. VIII. Other tythes, belonging also to the nunnery, were granted to — Bergavenny, 34 H. VIII. The priory of Chepstow had also tythes and rents in Badgworth.

The impropriation belongs to Jesus College Society, Ox. for the support of a school at Abergavenny, out of which 16*l.* a year is paid to Christ Church College, Cambridge, in lieu of tythes due to that society.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary or Holy Trinity, consists of a nave and chancel with a lofty tower, adorned with battlements of fret work. On the N. side is a chapel, dedicated to St. Margaret (the legendary Saint Pelagius). The Norman style prevails throughout the building. The door and windows of the north aisle are pointed and highly finished with nail head mouldings. The canopies of the windows are supported by corbel heads: two of which in the west window are particularly striking, a crowned head, and a knight with a casque and gorget, well preserved, and expressive, peculiar to the Norman æra. This aisle was probably built in the reign of Stephen. The nave is more modern, and the tower still more so. It is well built, with weather free stone, and neatly finished with battlements ornamented with Gothic fretwork.

In P. N. tax. the church of Begge, with the chapel of Schwrdington and Upper Hatherley, 23*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

The vicar's portion, 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

In the King's books, 20*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*

CCXXVI. BARNWOOD, *anciently* BERNEUDE,

Is a parish containing 1500 acres, two miles E. from Gloucester, intersected by the turnpike road leading to London. The soil in general is light, lying on a bed of gravel, and applied rather more to pasture than tillage.—The latter part of the name gives an obvious etymology, and shews that this part was formerly overrun with wood.

In Domesday it is mentioned as a member of the manor of Bertune, and belonging to the abbey of St. Peter, before the conquest. The conqueror confirmed the possession in the time of Abbot Serlo; and free warren was granted by Edward III. At the dissolution it was granted to the dean and chapter of the cathedral of Gloucester, and forms a part of their revenues. The manor of Bernewod is mentioned in P. N. tax. among the temporal possessions of the abbot of St. Peter, who is described as having four carucates of land, and two mills.

Sir T. Stephens, of Little Sodbury, appears among the early lessees, and afterwards the Johnson family for near a century. John Morris, Esq. became the principal lessee in 1782, by transfer from the three daughters, coheirs of W. Johnson, Esq. and on his death was succeeded by his eldest son Robert Morris, Esq. who resides in the mansion, which he has greatly improved and beautified, near the church.

All the estates in this parish, except the copyhold, which were enfranchised under the land tax redemption act, are held by lease, under the chapter, of which Mr. Morris has two thirds.

Other principal lessees are Mr. John Jordan, John Jones, &c.

No freeholder voted in 1776.

Population 180—220—309. Houses, 46.

The benefice is a curacy in Gloucester deanery, endowed with the vicarial tythes. The impropriation has descended with the manor from the earliest times.

The dean and chapter are patrons, and John Longden, M. A. is curate.

The present chancel is said to have been the ancient chapel, and on the eastern end of the roof there was a

cross patée encircled, said to be the badge of the Knights Hospitallers of Jerusalem, but within the last two years it fell down, and has not been replaced.

The church, dedicated to St. Lawrence, with the neat embattled tower, and a narrow aisle resting on the arches of the nave were added by abbot Parker, about 1520.—Over the door of the tower is an escutcheon in a decaying state, for Parker, “a stag at gaze, between three phæons.” On the east end of the nave stands a handsome square turret, finished with an ornamented pinnacle, of the same style, and built at the same time with the more modern parts.

The zig-zag moulding on the exterior of the east window, which is lancet shaped, refers it to a period not far from the middle of the 12th century, when the pointed arch was beginning to take place of the Saxon, but still retained some of its ornamental mouldings.

The roof of the nave was cieled 1730, and the whole neatly pewed in 1752, at the expence of 200*l.* left by will of Mrs. Whitehead for that purpose.

CCXXVII. BROCKWORTH, *olim* BROCOWARDINGE,

Is a parish of 1600 acres extent, distant four miles *E.* from Gloucester, and intersected by the Irmin-street, or great Roman foss road; some appearances of which were not long since to be seen. The soil is chiefly a stiff clay, more in pasture than tillage. The name is derived from *Broc* or *Broco*, a Saxon proprietor of the manor, and *worth* Saxon, for mansion.

The manor was originally held by Hugo Lasne, of the King, and taxed at five hides. Afterwards it was in the Chandos family, and in the reign of John was given to

the priory of Lanthony. In the charter of confirmation, a house on the west side of the church, with several lands, are particularly specified. At the dissolution, it passed to John Gyes, Esq. in exchange for Asple Gyes, co. Bedford, and Weddington, co. Ox. 1541. In this family it has continued ever since, and is now the property of the Hon. and Right Rev. Shute Barrington, Bishop of Durham, in right of his Lady, Jane, sister and heir of Sir William Guise, Bart. deceased.

DROYSCOURT, claiming manerial rights, was purchased of Sir Lawrence de Chandos, 1260, by the abbot of Gloucester. At the dissolution this made part of the endowment of the see, and the scite of it is now in lease to Shute, Lord Bishop of Durham. Lands appurtenant to this manor are held under the same tenure, by Mr. John and H. Jones, and Mr. Davies.

BUCKHOLT or *Buckwood*, containing 300 acres, a member of the same manor, was in lease to Robert Morris, Esq. who sold it to Thomas Jefferies, Esq. (244) by whom it has since been resold to David Whatley, Gent.

HAMLETS. 1. COOPER'S-HILL, famous for having been the birth place of John Theyer, a learned antiquary, and firm loyalist to Charles I. He died 1673, and is said to have been buried in Brockworth church, but no monumental remains of him are to be found. The estate was late in the possession of Theyer Townsend, Esq. deceased. It was part of the manor of Droyscourt, but sold under the land-tax redemption act, by the Bishop of Gloucester, and separated from the see. It afterwards passed by purchase to Messrs. Davies and H. Jones, and is now vested in them as freehold.

Cooper's-hill house, most delightfully situated, and commanding a most extensive view of the vale, was lately

sold by James Lee, Gent. to Charles Dighton, Esq. who resides in it.

Ten freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 200—253—350. Houses inhabited, 63.

The benefice is vicarial in Winchcomb deanery. The impropriation once belonged to the priory of Lanthony, and was granted to Robert Earl of Leicester, in exchange for other lands, 16 Eliz. It is now vested in the lord of the manor, and Edward Jones, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. George, consists of a nave and north aisle, with a low tower in the middle, slated in a conical form. The internal arches are of early Norman architecture.

In P. N. tax. the prior of Lanton. holds at Brockworth four carucates of land, and each carucate is worth 30s. a year.

The church of Brockworth 7*l*.

In the King's books (discharged) 6*l*. 17*s*. 1*d*.

CCXXVIII. CHURCHDOWN, CHOSEN, *anciently* CIRCESDUNE,

Is three miles from Gloucester eastward. It contains 2300 acres of pasture and arable. Fourteen hundred acres are in tillage. The soil is generally of clay, in some places inclining to sand, but mostly productive of good crops. The name has evidently a reference to the situation, and signifies the church on the hill, for *don*, *down*, *dun*, are Saxon for a *down*, high hill or mount. The hill, on the summit of which the church stands, rises out of the vale in an oval shape, four miles in circumference at the base, and about 850 yards high. The whole is in cultivation, and equally fertile with the vale. The reason

of the church being built on so elevated a spot must be assigned either to the laborious piety of our ancestors, which connected merit with difficulty; or to the satisfaction of a penance self inflicted, or enjoined the founder by ecclesiastical authority, as an atonement for some crime committed. To works of this kind, which cannot otherwise be explained, a legendary tale is generally attached. The vulgar tradition is, that the original intention was to build the church at the foot of the hill, but that the work of the day was removed by some invisible hand, in the night, to the summit, and that these interruptions were so constant and unremitting, as at length to enforce a compliance with the will of the unseen agent, in building the church on the spot where it now stands. The present situation is unquestionably unfavourable as far as it respects the convenience of the inhabitants; but the building, as an object, may be considered not altogether uninteresting in the landscape of the country.

John Harmar, the famous Greek professor was born in this parish.

In the fields about the hill, and particularly at the eastern base, the crowstone is found in abundance.

The manor anciently belonged to Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury, afterwards to Thomas, Archbishop of York and his successors. In the reign of Edward III. this among other temporal possessions of that see was extended, but again restored, and continued in possession of the Archbishoprick till 1553, when it was granted to Sir Thomas Chamberlayne, in whose descendants it has been vested since that time, and Edmund John Chamberlayne, Esq. of Maugersbury, is now lord of the manors of Churchdown and Hucklecote. He holds a court leet, to which

Norton owes suit and service. A small property is attached to the manor (83).

HAMLETS. 1. CHURCHDOWN, where the church stands.

2. HUCCLECOTT, *Hochilicote*, and anciently *Uchelcoed*, which means a lofty wood (*Uchel coed.*) In Domesday survey, the wood is described as one mile long, and half a mile broad.

A good house in this hamlet was built by the late Sir Edward Strachan, Bart. which, on his death, was purchased by Samuel Hayward, Esq. of Gloucester, and is now vested in Walter Wilkins, Esq. by marriage with his daughter.

The Rev. Richard Rogers is proprietor of a good house and estate, which formerly belonged to the family of Wyndowe.

Another house is also the property and residence of Mrs. Colchester.

Parton and Elmbridge. The property of these places was anciently in the priory of St. Oswald, and passed through several branches of the Jennings family. The former is now vested, with manerial rights, in Mrs. Catherine Hayward, relict of the late Samuel Hayward, Esq. by purchase of the representatives of the late William Singleton, Esq. of Norton, co. Glo⁴². The latter is the property of the Hon. Henry Augustus Berkeley Craven.

Noke is an estate belonging to Mrs. Catherine Hayward.

Brickhampton, at the beginning of the last century, belonged to Sir Robert Atkyns, afterwards to Robert Atkyns, Esq. of Nether Swell. By marriage with one of his daughters and coheiresses, it came to Edmund Chamberlayne, Esq. the grandfather of the present proprietor, Edmund John Chamberlayne, Esq. (83)

The Loons is a considerable estate belonging to Mrs. Mary Holcomb.

Twenty-five freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 400—630—644. Houses inhabited, 144.

The benefice is a perpetual curacy augmented, in Gloucester deanery. The impropriation anciently belonged to the priory of St. Oswald, and at the dissolution was granted to the chapter of Bristol, whose lessee pays the curate 20*l.* per annum. The nomination is in the impropriator, and James Evans, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, was used as a chapel to the priory of St. Oswald. It has a nave and north aisle, with an embattled tower at the west end. The following information is said in Bigland's Collections to be found on the inside wall of the tower, "This bell-hous was buylded in the yeere of our Lorde God, 1601."

In P. N. tax. "The prior of St. Oswald, Glouc. holds at Parthon three caruc. of land and a half, and each caruc. is worth thirty shillings yearly.

"The church of St. Oswald, with the chapel of Churchesdon, &c. 40*l.*"

Not in charge in the King's books.

CCXXIX. DOWN HATHERLEY, *anciently* ATHELAI,

Is three miles N. E. from Gloucester, and contains about 750 acres of rich pasture and arable land. The soil is a mixture of clay and sand. The parish is intersected by a rivulet, which rises in Badgeworth, and falls into the Severn at Sandhurst. The turnpike-road to Worcester and the North also passes through it.

The manor was seized by the Conqueror, and is recorded in Domesday under the title of Terra Regis. On

the creation of the barony of Giffard of Brimpsfield, it was annexed thereto. In 1311, it was held by Sir John de Wyllenton, and passed by marriage to Sir T. Brooke, in 1389. Fulk Grevil, second son of Sir Edward Grevil, succeeded by marriage with the surviving grand-daughter and heir of Robert Willoughby, Lord Broke. The manorial estate was purchased by Nicholas Norwood, Esq. of Leckhampton, from which family, in 1608, it was transferred to the Gwinnetts, of Badgeworth, and George Gwinnett, Esq. is the present lord of the manor(225).

The most considerable estate in the parish was vested, 1368, in John At-Yate, from whom it passed to the Berkeleys, of Beverstone, and from them, in the seventeenth century, to the family of Brett, which was succeeded by that of Gibbes, about 1720. William Gibbes, Esq. resided in the mansion house till his death, 1784, when Sir Richard Sutton, Bart. of Norwood Park, co. Nott. succeeded by will, and dying in 1802, left his estates, which include about a fourth part of the parish, to his second son, — Sutton, Clerk.

Other considerable proprietors are, T. Mee, Esq. Mrs. Catherine Hayward, Mrs. Anne Wicks, and Mr. Peter Herbert.

Ten freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 100—100—119. Houses inhabited, 22.

The benefice is a vicarage in Winchcomb deanery. The patronage anciently belonged to the priory of St. Oswald, afterwards to the priory of Usk, and in 1500 the abbey of Glouc. presented to it. Since the dissolution, it has been retained by the crown. Martin Barry, LL. B. is incumb.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary and Corpus Christi, is small, and has a low, strong battlemented tower at the west end.

In P. N. tax. the chapel of Hatherl. inferior, 5*l*.

Portion of the prioress of Usk, 1*l*.

In the King's books, 8*l*. 14*s*. 4½*d*.

CCXXX. LASSINGTON, LASSINGDON, *anciently* LES-
SEDUNE,

Is a small parish, two miles N. W. from Gloucester. It contains about 350 acres, the soil of which, in general, is a cold clay; in some places, particularly near the church, more inclined to gravel, with pebbles intermixed. About two thirds are in pasture, besides the rich meadow which lies on the banks of Leden. The place, with some probability, is supposed to owe its name to the hill, which forms a considerable part of the parish. *Lessedune* signifies the smaller *down* or elevated spot, in opposition to Churchdown, which rises from the vale to the east. Both were held by the same proprietor.

The canal which leads from Gloucester to Hereford intersects the parish at the foot of the hill.

The astroites or star stones, of a grey colour, and pentagonal shape, are found in abundance here. They are of different lengths, but seldom exceed three inches, striated, and of the form of a star at the ends, easily breaking into thin plates (224).

The bee orchis (*fuciflora*) grows on the side of the hill, with the spurge laurel, (*Daphne laureola*), and other plants, not very common.

Ulchetel held Lessedune in Langebrige hundred, a manor of two hides, in the time of Edward the Confessor. Roger held it of Thomas, Archbishop of York, in the time of the Conqueror. The family of Musgros was possessed of two thirds of it for many generations, one of

whom (Walter) gave to the hospital of St. Bartholomew, in Gloucester, two cranocs (eight bushels) of oats, payable out of his barn at Lessedune, on Michaelmas day for ever. The family of Cooke were proprietors in the reign of Edward the third, and from the heirs of John Cooke, a transfer was made to Thomas Raleigh, Esq. of Farnborough, co. Warwick, 1390, in which family it remained till William Raleigh sold it to Sir John Scudamore, in the reign of Henry the sixth. In the next reign Sir John was attainted of treason, and this with his other estates escheated to the crown, 1465. In the same year a grant was made of it to Sir Richard Herbert and his heirs male, whence it passed to William Whorwood, Esq. Attorney General to Henry the eighth; on his death, 1546, he left two daughters, Anne married to Ambrose Dudley, and Margaret married to Thomas Throgmorton.

The other third part, lying in the parish of St. Mary de Lode, was given by John Pyrie to the abbey of Gloucester, and confirmed by patent, 1272, according to Bigland; but probably Rudder is more correct, who fixes the grant at the latter end of the reign of Edw. III. as it is not mentioned among the temporal possessions of the abbey in P. N. taxation in the time of Edw. I. At the dissolution this third portion made part of the endowment of the see of Gloucester, and was leased 1536 to John Arnold, Esq. who purchased the other two parts. At the beginning of the 18th century Edw. Cooke, of Highnam, Esq. was lord of two thirds of the manor. The other third part was in lease to different tenants till 1790, when Sir John Guise, Bart. became the lessee (206), and in 1800 under the powers granted by the land tax redemption act, it was sold to Sir B. Wm. Guise, Bart. his son, and is now consolidated with the other parts of the manor.

The property in this parish is annexed to the manor.

One freeholder voted in 1776.

Population, 45—33—85. Houses inhabited, 13.

The benefice is a rectory in the deanery of Gloucester, charged with an annual payment of eight shillings to the chapter of Bristol, a pension formerly due to the prior of St. Oswald's, in Gloucester. A third part of the advowson was granted by John Pyrie with the third of the manor, and confirmed to the see by Hen. VIII. On the sale of the latter, as mentioned before, the share of patronage was reserved. Two turns are now vested in Sir B. Wm. Guise, Bart. and one in the Bishop of Gloucester.

The church, dedicated to St. Oswald, consists of a small turret at the west end, a nave, and a chancel.

Portion of the prior of St. Oswald in the church of Lassindon *Ol. 8s. 0d.*

In the King's books (discharged) *6l. 10s. 0d.*

CCXXXI. NORTH HAMLETS,

Lie on the north side of Gloucester, and belong chiefly to the parishes of St. Mary de Lode and St. Catherine within the city.

1. KING'S HOLM, containing 152 acres, adjoins the city, and is intersected by the turnpike-road leading to Tewkesbury. It lies in the two parishes of St. Mary de Lode and St. Catherine. Hen. III. granted King's Holm, then valued at *8l.* per annum, to Robert le Savage, to be held by the service of door-keeper of the King's pantry. In his family it continued till 1363, when John Boteler, of the Park, held it. Through several proprietors, it passed to the Beauchamps. Sir Robert Willoughby, Lord Broke, was seized of it by right of marriage with Elizabeth,

daughter of Sir Richard Beauchamp. It came afterwards to three coheiresses of that family, and again passed to Rowland Arnold, Esq. who died seized of it in 1573, leaving a daughter, Dorothy, wife of Thomas Luci. The hamlet is now divided among several proprietors. John Pitt, Esq. M. P. for Gloucester, is the principal landholder, and lord of the manor. The Kingsholm close came to him by purchase from the late Sir John Guise, Some copyholds were anciently held under this manor, but they are all extinct. The inhabitants of this hamlet owe suit and service to the lord of Dudstan and King's Barton.

Scattered properties belong to Messrs. Wilton, Rudge, Ellis, &c.

This hamlet was included within the operation of the late act of inclosure, and was discharged from tythes.

A traditionary account prevails, that in the Kingsholm close once stood the palace of a Saxon King, but it is not corroborated by history. A house certainly stood there, but it is supposed to have been the manerial residence. From the great abundance of coins of the latter empire, and skeletons which have been dug up, there is no doubt of its having been a station of considerable consequence. It is generally understood that the principal part of Gloucester lay here in the time of the Romans. If the conjecture may be allowed that in Saxon ages, the watery way was continued from Longford, and fell into the old channel of the Severn near the chapel house, the etymology of the name is easily ascertained. *Kings Holm*, signifying, a plain belonging to the King, surrounded with water⁴³. At what period the channel was filled up is uncertain, but the traces are now well marked, and the property of the soil belongs to the corporation of Gloucester.

ter, whereas the land immediately adjoining on both sides is separate and distinct. Subsequent to the foundation of St. Oswald's priory, in 909, the key or wharf, which was near it, on the banks of the Severn, was removed, in consequence of a dispute between the priory and the town. After this removal, the channel was of little use, and from neglect, or other designed or accidental circumstances, might easily fill up. From this period we may probably date the ruin of the city in this quarter, and the increase of it in others.

The poor of this hamlet are supported in the Gloucester workhouse, and the rates are assessed upon the inhabitants as if they were within the limits of the city.

Two freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, —, — —, — 139. Houses inhabited, 30.

2. LONGFORD is distant one mile from Gloucester, on the turnpike-road to Tewkesbury, and belonging to the parishes of St. Mary de Lode and St. Catherine. The soil is a black mould on a bed of gravel, and nearly divided between arable and pasture. By the late act of inclosure, tythes were abolished. The name is derived from the watery way, which till of late years extended through the hamlet.

Little is known relative to this hamlet prior to the dissolution. Hen. VIII. gave the manor of Longford, among others, with all its rights, members, and appurtenances, to the See of Gloucester, since which time, the estates appurtenant to the manor, have been held by lease under the Bishop. The principal lessees are, Richard Brown Cheston, M. D. James Wood, Esq. Mrs. Catherine Hayward, and John Pitt, Esq. The Bishop of Gloucester is lord of the manor.

The dean and chapter have also considerable property

here, under whom the principal lessees are, the governor and guardians of the poor of Gloucester.

A good estate belongs to the Rev. Mr. Beale, of Evesham. Another to Benjamin Hyett, Esq.

Other proprietors are Messrs. Rudge, Olive, Theache, &c. &c.

Longford-house was built by Rich. B. Cheston, M. D. and commands a beautiful view in front of Churchdown-hill, and the long range of the Cotswolds in the distance. From the back front are seen May-hill, with the high lands of the Forest of Dean, forming together a pleasing landscape. The estates appendant to it are very considerable.

In the support of the poor the hamlet is distinct, and separated from the city.

Ten freeholders voted in 1776.

Population in Longford St. Mary, —, —, —82.
Houses inhabited, 13.

Population in Longford St. Catherine, —, —, —84.
Houses inhabited, 15.

3. *TWIGWORTH*, adjoining to Longford, is wholly in the parish of St. Catherine. It consists of pasture and arable, and the soil varies very little from the last. The termination of the name, with the prefix, seems to imply that it was a village belonging to some Saxon chief (225).

Twigworth is not mentioned in Domesday, but was probably included under the general account of the King's lands in Bertune. Cuthbert de Rivers had a grant of it in the reign of John. The manor afterwards belonged to the Beauchamps, and by marriage came to the Grevils. Fulk Grevil had livery of it in 1562. It is now divided among several proprietors. Mrs. Catherine Hayward has nearly two thirds of the whole hamlet.

A considerable property is held under the chapter of Gloucester.

The tythes of Twigworth belonged to the priory of St. Oswald, were granted to the See of Bristol 1543, and were commuted for lands by the late act of inclosure.

It is said that the chapel of Twigworth was seized by Edw. III. into his own hands, but no mention is made of it in P. N. tax. nor is there any traditionary account of the place where it stood.

This hamlet has its proper officers, and maintains its own poor.

Four freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, —, — —, —59. Houses inhabited, 12.

4. WOTTON, *anciently* ULETONE, is a vill or hamlet adjoining to Gloucester on the N. E. It is in the parish of St. Mary de Lode, but has its own officers, and supports its own poor. The soil is generally a black mould on a substratum of gravel, and a good deal in pasture.

The lands were much divided soon after the conquest.

Some property belonged to the priory of St. Oswald in 1305, and was granted to Thomas Gatwick and Anselm Lamb 1558. Other lands belonging to the same house, with the tythes, were granted to John Hercy and John Edwards, 20 Eliz. By the late act of inclosure, tythes were abolished, and lands allotted in lieu of them. The property of this hamlet, though it contains but few acres, is divided among thirty-five holders.

Wotton-house, formerly the property of Mr. Horton, lately of the Rev. Richard Brereton, deceased, now belongs to his son, Thomas Westfaling, Esq. of Rudhall, co. Heref. (159)

G. Cæsar Hopkinson, Esq. colonel in the army, has a good house and estate here.

Three freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 156. Houses inhabited, 28.

5. THE VINEYARD HILL lies on an eminence, about a mile west from Gloucester, with the Leden and the western channel of the Severn flowing at its base. It had been, from early times, part of the property of the abbey of Gloucester, and was continued to the bishopric at the dissolution. The abbots had a large house here, to which they frequently retired. It was demolished during the civil war, but the scite and the surrounding moat are now visible. This building excited an emulation in the prior of Lanthony to erect a rival house on the south side of Gloucester (243).

6. WALHAM-MEAD, *anciently* WOLLAMS, lying north of the city, was the property of the prior of Lanthony, 49 Hen. III. By virtue of the late act of inclosure, the several properties which were before ill-ascertained, were settled, and the limits of the respective parishes defined. The privilege which used to be enjoyed by the lord of the manor of Highnam, of turning two horses into the mowing grass of this meadow, ceased on a compensation being given in lieu of it.

7. ALNEY, *anciently* OLANEGE, is an island formed by the separation of the Severn into two channels, and comprehends many acres of fine rich pasture, about half of which is in the parish of Maisemore, and the other attached to the parishes of St. Mary de Lode or St. Nicholas, in Gloucester. *Portham* or *Importham*, was the property of the abbey, and at the dissolution, (according to Atkyns and Rudder,) was granted to John Arnold 33 Hen. VIII. but Importams otherwise Porthame, containing about 67 acres of meadow, and the first shoot thereof being part of the demesnes of Barton Abbotts, and for some time ap-

pertaining to the late monastery of St. Peter, was granted to the Bishop of Gloucester, towards the 'endowment of the new see, and continued so till about 1801, when it was alienated under the powers of an act for the redemption of the land-tax, and is now vested in Sir Thomas Crawley Boevey, Bart. who had been for many years the lessee under the Bishop. It is remarkable, that a small portion of this meadow is in the hamlet of Highnam, and the property of Sir B. W. Guise, Bart.

The after pasture is the property of the freemen of Gloucester.

This island is famous for the meeting of Edmund and Canute in 1016. The two Kings had stood in sight of each other for some time, at the head of their respective armies, at Deerhurst, without either giving the signal for battle. At length Edmund challenged Canute to single combat, which was refused by the Dane, on the ground of the inequality of the combat, but he proposed a reference to the principal officers of each army, which was accepted. The plenipotentiaries met in the isle of Alney, and after a short conference, the peace was concluded by the partition of the kingdom⁴⁴.

The *Castle-meads* are the property of Sir Charles Henry Talbot, Bart. and lie in the parish of St. Nicholas.

8. Part of LITTLE-MEAD lies also in this hamlet, and in the parish of St. Mary de Lode, the property of Mr. Thomas Jones. The after-pasture of this also is reserved for the freemen.

Monkleighton, on the north side, contains some rich pasture lands, the property of John Turner, Esq.

9. The CASTLE OF GLOUCESTER, (on the scite of which is the New County Gaol,) with its appurtenances, lies

close to the city, and is extra parochial⁴⁵. The three last, with some other small portions, are included in the same assessments for the public service.

ST. MARGARET'S HOSPITAL

Is situated about half a mile N. of the city. It was built in honor of the sepulture of our Lord and St. Margaret, and has at different periods been known by the names of the *Hospital*, or *House of the Lepers of St. Sepulcher's* and *St. Margaret's*, also the *Lower House of Dudstan*. The foundation of it is of great antiquity, but the exact time as well as the name of the founder, are equally unknown. Alured, Bishop of Worcester, granted these lepers liberty of burial in their own church yard, about the middle of the 12th century. The intent of the establishment is ascertained to have been for persons afflicted with leprosy, a disease which, in the early periods of our history, was very prevalent. The patronage of the house belonged to the abbot of St. Peter, and the domestic economy was placed in a master, or supervisor, a prior, or chaplain, and brethren and sisters. At the dissolution the yearly value was 11*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* of which the brethren and sisters received 8*l.* 12*s.* and the priest had 2*l.* besides 15*s.* of outrents. The offices of master and prior ceased in the reign of Elizabeth, when the corporation of Gloucester became the governors, by grant from the crown. Since which time the number of persons has occasionally varied, but is now fixed to eight men, a reader, and some other officers. Two shillings is the weekly allowance, and a room. The chapel is a little to the east of the hospital, and service is performed in it at stated times.

ST. MARY MAGDALEN, or KING JAMES'S HOSPITAL,

Is situated a little beyond the last, and owed its foundation to the priory of Lanthony, which supplied it with a certain weekly allowance of bread. The lordship of Ber-nitone, *Barrington Great* (86), was given by Earl Milo to that priory, in part for the purpose of supporting thirteen lepers. The brethren received yearly to the value of 12*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for providing certain loaves, called the loaves of Dudestan, from the priory, and it is recorded in the register book of Henry Deene, a prior in the time of Edward IV. that the poor people of this hospital were assigned two loaves a day, a load of hay, and a tree for fuel yearly, with the pasturage of a cow, and some lands for the maintenance of their priest. At the dissolution the income of the lands was certified to be yearly 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* The government was afterwards placed in the hands of the corporation, who rebuilt the hospital, and by a grant of Jas. I. the annual pension which had been usually paid by the crown, to the amount of 13*l.* to this hospital, was ordered to be applied to the maintenance of nineteen poor people and a minister. The present establishment consists of nine women and ten men, with an allowance of eighteen pence a week. The chapel, which stands near the turnpike road, bears in some parts of it, and particularly the south door, the characters of great antiquity. In the certificate of the commissioners, at the dissolution, both the chapels are called parish churches; but now they are extra-parochial, retaining the right of sepulture.

CCXXXII. NORTON, *anciently* NORTUNE,

Is a parish containing 1400 acres, five miles distant N.

from Gloucester, and intersected by the turnpike road leading to Tewkesbury. The soil in general is a deep clay, in many parts mixed with rounded pebbles, and produces good crops both in grass and corn, and nearly in equal quantities.

The name is evidently derived from its relative situation to Gloucester, North town.

Part of Wainload hill is in this parish.

Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury, held Nortune, containing five hides and a half, before the survey; and Thomas, Archbishop of York at the time of it. The manor was afterwards held of the honour of Gloucester, and divided into two, Bishop's Norton and Prior's Norton. The former continued in the Archbishopric of York till the dissolution, when it was granted to Sir Thomas Chamberlayn, 1553, and passed to the family of Whitmore, of Lower Slaughter (96). George Whitmore, Esq. son of General Whitmore, sold it to William Singleton, Esq. of whom it was purchased by the late John Webb, Esq. and is now in possession of Mrs. Arabella Webb, his relict, for her life.

Norton house, with a good estate, belongs to the same proprietor. It passed from John le Brun, 1301, and continued in the same family (afterwards called Brown) to the beginning of the last century, when it was purchased by Daniel Lysons, Esq. of Hempstead, and sold again some years after to William Singleton, Esq. from whom it passed to John Webb, Esq.

Prior's Norton, belonged to the priory of St. Oswald, Gloucester, and at the dissolution was granted, with the chapel of St. John's and a portion of tythes, to John Bloxholm, 1545. John Read, and after him Oliver St. John, had a livery of it in the reign of Elizabeth. It af-

terwards passed to a daughter of Lord Scudamore, and is now vested in the Duke of Norfolk, in right of marriage with Frances Fitzroy Scudamore. The temporal property of St. Oswald Priory, is thus described in P. N. tax. "*Prior Sci. Oswalde, Gloucestre, habet apud Northon unam caruc. terr. et dimid. et valet quadraginta solid. &c. et habet unu. molend. quod valet p. annu. duos solid.*"

The two reputed manors above mentioned are said to owe suit and service to Churchdown (228).

Mrs. Catherine Hayward has a considerable property here.

Another estate belongs to Thomas Paytherus, Esq. of London.

Twelve freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 300—240—303. Houses, 64.

The benefice is a perpetual curacy in Gloucester deanery. The dean and chapter of Bristol are impropriators, who appoint the curate, and pay him twenty pounds a year. Mr. William Butt is lessee. James Evans, M. A. is incumbent.

The advowson was given to the abbey of Gloucester by Emmelina, and the grant was confirmed by her grandson Robert, 1126.

In the thirteenth century Norton was a chapel to the church of St. Oswald, and the rectory and advowson of the vicarage of Norton, which belonged to the said priory, were granted to the dean and chapter of Bristol, 1543.

The church consists of a nave and chancel, and has a well built battlemented tower at the west end.

In P. N. tax. "The church of St. Oswald, with the chapels of Churchesdon, Norton, Sandhurst and Compton."

CCXXXIII. SANDHURST, SANTHURST, *anciently*
SANHER,

Is a parish of 2000 acres, three miles N. from Gloucester, and bounded on the west by the Severn. The soil in some parts inclines to sand, in others is a deep clay, and on the banks of the river a red fertile loam. The proportion of pasture and arable is nearly equal; of the former there is a considerable quantity of meadow, of the latter about 100 acres are common field.

The manor of Sanher, in Dudestan hundred, was held by Edmar, a thane, in the time of the Conqueror. Earl Herald took this away with four other manors after the death of Edward, and Robert de Lurei put them to farm for 46*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* Soon after the conquest it belonged to the family of de Willington, who either gave, or received their name from Willington Court. In this family it continued till 1412, when John Wrath was proprietor, as son and heir of John Wrath, who had married Joan de Willington. He left two sisters, coheiresses; Elizabeth, wife of Sir William Poulton, and Isabel, wife of William Beaumont. On the death of Elizabeth, without issue, the whole fell to Isabel, who was succeeded by her son, John Beaumont; on his death without issue, Isabel, his sister, became possessed of the whole property of the Willington family in various parts of the county. She dying unmarried, was succeeded by Sir Thos. Beaumont, her kinsman and next heir, whose successors of the same name, in several periods of the reign of Hen. VII. levied fines to Giles Lord d'Aubeny, and other great lords, probably to the use of the King. The before-mentioned Lord and his son Henry were successively seized of them, in the following reign, when they reverted to the crown,

and having been granted to Edward, Duke of Somerset, on his attainder came again to the crown. James Basset was grantee in the reign of Mary, and Arthur Basset, 7. Eliz. The manor came afterwards to the family of Winston, of whom, Philip died at Willington Court, and is buried in the church, 1672. John Viney, Esq. was lord of the manor at the beginning of the last century, from whom it has descended to James Viney, Esq. (198).

Ablode's court, or *Abbelode* is a reputed manor. It was granted by Hen. I. to the abbey of Gloucester, with the grove of Barton, called Pay Grove, in exchange for an orchard belonging to the monks, the scite of the present cathedral tower. A farther grant of six ridges was made by the same King, and a similar portion by Ralph de Willington and Olympias his wife, situated behind the court in the same reign. Among the abbot's temporal possessions in P. N. tax. are mentioned "three carucates of land, valued at 14s. each," and the same house had free warren in all their demesnes, 28 Ed. III. At the dissolution it was granted, together with half a wood, called Woolridge in Ablode, to the chapter of Gloucester. John Guise, Esq. a younger branch of the Rendcomb family, was lessee, and afterwards a Mr. Cocketel. By an ordinance of Parliament, 1645, it was given to the mayor and burgesses of Gloucester, but on the restoration the chapter were reinstated, under whom it is held by Lord Sydney, their lessee, heir to the estates of the late Geo. Selwyn, Esq. (241).

The abbot is supposed to have had a lode or passage over the Severn at this place⁴⁶.

BRUERNE, is another ancient manor, now by corruption called *Brawn*. It was formerly held by Ældred, Archbishop of York, under the name of Brewere, and con-

tained three yard lands, and through several proprietors, among whom was the family of Boteler, during the reigns of the three first Edwards, it passed at length to General Carpenter, whose descendants sold it to Thomas Vernon, Esq. in 1775, from whom it descended to his grandson, T. Vernon, Esq. now living.

Culverden, or *Bengrove*, is also a reputed manor, and seems to have gone with the manor of Sandhurst till Hen. VII. when it was transferred to, and continued in the family of Throckmorton. Subsequent to the reign of Elizabeth it passed into the family of Bell, of whose representatives it was purchased towards the latter part of the last century, by the late Samuel Hayward, Esq. who died in 1790, and is now the property for life of Walter Wilkins, Esq. by marriage with the daughter and heiress.

Walsworth-hall, is a handsome modern built house, situated in the hamlet, from which it derives the name, and is surrounded by a good estate, belonging to the same proprietors as the last.

The *Moat*, with a considerable estate, is the property of Samuel Lysons, clerk (240).

Other proprietors are Mr. John Phillpotts, Samuel Olive, and John Salcomb.

Fifteen freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 300—260—365. Houses inhabited, 64.

The benefice is a vicarage in Gloucester deanery. The rectory and advowson formerly belonged to St. Oswald Priory, and at the dissolution were granted to the see of Bristol. The Bishop of that see is patron, and Samuel Sadler, M. A. is incumbent.

The impropriate tythes are in lease from the Bishop of Bristol to the family of Vernon.

The church, dedicated to St. Lawrence, consists of a

nave and chancel, with a low tower at the west end. The present building was probably erected about the beginning of the 16th century. The chancel was repaired and beautified at the joint expence of Samuel Hayward and Thos. Vernon, Esq.

In P. N. tax. it is recorded with Norton, &c. (232).

CCXXXIV. GREAT SHURDINGTON, *olim* SCHHWR-DINTON,

Is a parish of 400 acres, distant six miles N. E. from Gloucester, and situate at the base of Leckhampton hill. The soil in general is of clay, and chiefly in pasture.

A tumulus or barrow was opened not many years ago, and at the depth of about sixteen feet a stone sepulchre was discovered, seven feet long and four broad, containing a perfect skeleton. The bones had a fresh and firm appearance, and the teeth were white. Over the head was suspended a helmet, which being entirely corroded by rust, fell to pieces on the slightest touch. It is said, that the numeral characters answering to 1000 were visible⁴⁷.

Gilbert Clare, last Earl of Gloucester, was proprietor of this manor 8 Ed. II. It afterwards continued in the family of Maltravers, and thence passed by marriage with Eleanor, sister and heiress to Henry Maltravers, to John Arundel, alias John Fitz Alan, in which family it continued to 35 Hen. VIII. when William Earl of Arundel died seized of it. All the latter possessors seem to have been mesne lords under the Archbishop of York, as in the grant of the manor to T. Chamberlayne, 6 E. VI. it is mentioned to have belonged to the Archbishop. It has continued in a direct line in the Chamberlayne family, and is now the pro-

perty of Edmund John Chamberlayne, Esq. of Mangersbury, in this county, without any landed property in the parish.

UPHATHERLEY is a hamlet in this parish, having its own constable and overseer. George Gwinnett, Esq. is lord of the manor, but without any landed property in it.

The principal property belongs to W. Lawrence, Esq. and Mrs. Hannah Palmer.

Six freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 70—80—85. Houses inhabited, 16.

The church is an impropriation in Winchcomb deanery, belonging to Jesus College, Oxford, and Christ College, Cambridge (235), and is annexed to Badgeworth. The tythes anciently belonged to the nunnery of Usk, co. Monmouth, and were granted with those of Up-Hatherley and South Hatherley to James Gunter and Walter Lewis, 1546, and tythes under the same description were granted to John Ferham, 1580.

The chapel is dedicated to St. Paul, and has a handsome steeple at the west end, with an aisle on the N. side, called Hatherley Aisle, which is repaired by the inhabitants of that hamlet.

CCXXXV. GREAT WHITCOMB *anciently WYDE-*
COMBE,

Is a parish six miles N. E. from Gloucester, and contains about 760 acres of pasture and arable, with a large proportion of woodland, chiefly beech, which is burnt into charcoal. The name evidently defines the situation of the place, which is a wide valley, between hills, from the two Saxon words *wid*, wide, and *comb*, a valley.

The manor is not mentioned in Domesday, but occurs

under the title of Wydecombe in P. N. tax. In 1276 Edmund Earl of Cornwall is said to have been seized of it. The Archbishop of York held it afterwards for the use of the priory, by agreement. At the dissolution it was granted to Sir Thomas Chamberlain, in whose family it continued till the beginning of the 17th century, when it was purchased by the widow of Sir Michael Hicks, about 1613, in which name and family it has descended to Sir W. Hicks, Bart. the present lord of the manor, and proprietor of more than two thirds of the parish.

The family of Hicks is distinctly traced up to J. Hicks, of Tortworth, 2 Henry VII. who was descended from Sir Ellis Hicks, Knight Banneret, in the reign of Ed. III. who added the three fleur de lis to his arms, as a reward for his bravery, and taking a pair of colours when in the service of the Black Prince.

The family seat is situated at the base of the hills, covered with beautiful beech woods, and commands, thro' some openings, a grand and interesting view, bounded by the distant hills of Malvern, over the rich vale of Gloucester.

William Caple, Esq. is a considerable proprietor here.

Three freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 90—96—119. Houses inhabited, 26.

The benefice is a rectory, in Gloucester deanery. The advowson formerly belonged to St. Augustine's Abbey, in Bristol, and now pays 13s. 4d. yearly to the chapter of that cathedral. Sir William Hicks, Bart. is patron, and Thomas Nash, D.D. incumbent.

Wydecomb is mentioned as a chapel in P. N. tax. and it is not ascertained at what period it first received parochial privileges. Some tythes anciently belonged to the

priory of St. Oswald, which, in 1578, were granted to John Hercey and John Edwards.

The church is small, dedicated to St. Mary, consisting of a nave, north aisle, and low wooden tower.

In P. N. tax. the portion of the prior of St. Oswald, in the chapel of Wydecombe, 13s. 4d.

In the King's books, discharged, 4l. 6s. 8d.

Middle Part.

CCXXXVI. BARTON HAMLETS

Adjoin the city on the east side, and form a street of considerable length. The houses and lands are divided between the parishes of St. Michael and St. Mary de Lode. The name was given from its having been a farm or barton in the King's own hands, to subsist the castle of Gloucester. This however was only one part, and peculiarly *King's Barton*. Another portion was called *Barton Abbotts*, and belonged to the abbey of Gloucester. In Bertune, King Edward had nine hides, and received from the farm 9l. 5s. and 3000 loaves for the dogs. In the reign of the Conqueror, it paid 20l. 20 cows, 20 hogs, and 16s. in lieu of the bread. This manor continued in the crown till 1218, when Jeoffry Lucy held it. Robert le Savage was seized of Barton Court 1261. Walter Wither 1270. John Musgross 1275. Ralph de Walesworth 1280. The rent of the castle, and the Bertone and Tyne of Gloucester, which was 110l. a year, was settled on Queen Margaret, in part of her dower, 1299.

BARTON ABBOTS belonged to the abbey of Gloucester, by gift of Adelred, Governor of the Wicces, about 720, when Eva was abbess. This manor continued, (with the interruption only of its having been seized by the Archbishop of York)(228), in the abbey of Gloucester, to the dissolution, when a lease of the scite of it, with several lands belonging to it, for 21 years, was granted to John ap Rice, at the yearly rent of 14*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*; and the reversion of all this and other estates were sold to the corporation of Gloucester, 1543; but the crown seems to have resumed its claim; for the manor of Barton Abbots was granted to Sir Adrian Fortescue, and his heirs male, 1558. According to Atkyns, it again reverted to the crown in 1608. The manor and Barton Farm, with other lands, now belong to the corporation of Gloucester.

This manor was always exempt from geld and royal service.

On the 28th of September an annual fair is held in Barton-street, which some years ago was well supplied with cheese; but the modern mode of passing it through the factor's hands, has very much reduced the quantity offered to public sale. It is however still a fair much attended for the purchase of horses and cattle of all kinds. A certain toll on cheese, cattle, &c. is received by Mrs Hayward (233). Queen Elizabeth, in the 28th year of her reign, granted to Edward Reade, and William Hulbert, among other premises, to be held as of her manor of *Estgrene-wyche*, at the yearly rent of two shillings and sixpence for ever, all the profits, customs, tolls, &c. of a certain fair, called *Pigfayer*, holden in Barton-street, on St. Lambert's day, which was the 17th of September; now, by the alteration of the stile carried forward to the 28th. From the original grantees the right has passed through

different proprietors, and last from the late W. Singleton, Esq. (232) to S. Hayward, Esq. (233).

Enquiries into the ancient state of property in this hamlet are now rendered unnecessary by the operation of a late act of Parliament for inclosing the open fields in the neighbourhood of Gloucester; and the confusion and perpetual disputes, which have for many years prevailed, both as to parochial boundaries, and tythes, are superseded by the commissioners award, which is deposited among the archives of the chapter of Gloucester, and open for inspection, by application to their clerk.

Population of Barton St. Mary, —, —, 412. Houses inhabited, 81.

Population of Barton St. Michael, —, —, 285. Houses inhabited, 54.

CCXXXVII. BROCKRUP, BROCKTHORP, *anciently* BROSTROP,

Is a parish containing 800 acres, and distant four miles s. from Gloucester. The soil is generally a stiff clay, and chiefly in pasture. Some land is in tillage in the uninclosed fields. The name is derived from *Broco*, or *Broc*, in Saxon times (227), and *threp* or *throp*, in Anglo Saxon, a street or village.

Corbet, in his military government of Gloucester, mentions a considerable skirmish that happened at Brockthorp hill, in which the parliamentary forces, under Massie, were brought into great danger by a manœuvre of the enemy, and the governor himself nearly cut off.

In Brostrop Aluric held three virgates of land. In 1103, Adeline, widow of Roger de Ivori gave this manor to the abbey of Gloucester, and King Stephen confirmed the

grant. In 1121 Elias Giffard granted to the monks of Gloucester all his land, estimated at half a hide and half a yard land, free from all customs except Danegelt due to the King; and some time afterwards Roger I. granted to the same society eight acres of land near Brockthrop Court. The manor and estates continued in the possession of the abbey till the suppression, when they were granted to the new see of Gloucester.

The family of Wood were lessees for many generations, and lived in the Court-house, now converted into a farm. The whole parish was held by lease under the Bishop of Gloucester.

The manor and demesnes, which were in lease to Caroline Busby, became the property of Alexander Maitland, Esq. on his marriage with her. A considerable part of this has been made free by sale to the said A. Maitland, under the land tax redemption act. About 240 acres are now in lease to him with the manor, on lives: the remainder is freehold.

Other lessees are John Pitt, Esq. Mr. Trye, and T. Smith. No freeholder voted in 1776.

Population, 200—107—112. Houses, 27.

The benefice is a vicarage in the deanery of Gloucester. The rectory and church, which belonged to the abbey of St. Peter, were given at the dissolution to the dean and chapter of Gloucester, who are now the impropriators and patrons. Samuel Sadler, clerk, M. A. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Swithin, is an inconsiderable building, consisting of a nave, with a low slated tower.

Value in P. N. tax. 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

Value in King's books (discharged), 7*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

CCXXXVIII. ELMORE

Is a parish containing 1200 acres, distant s. from Gloucester four miles. The soil is generally of a deep clay, and about 250 acres are in tillage, the remainder is in pasture and meadow. Elm and oak trees grow here in great luxuriance, and on situations raised above the reach of the floods, the pear and apple are planted to advantage.—The low meadows being subject to frequent inundations, are called the Moors, and hence the name is derived: the British word *Allmor*, signifying a low situation near the sea, or some great river⁴⁸.

A rock called *Stone-bench* runs nearly across the river here; it is sometimes visible above the water, and a small channel only is left on the opposite side for the passage of boats and barges of small burden; but no trows or brigs can pass, till the high water of spring tide gives them depth sufficient over the ridge.

A curious circumstance is recorded by Leland, that “the roots of oaks in this parish were converted into hard stones, within the ground.” If the learned antiquary was correct in his account, it exhibited a petrification of an unusual kind, but nothing like it is now to be seen, or even heard of by tradition.

Elmore Back lies on the banks of the Severn opposite to Minsterworth, so called from *bac* or *bec*, British for a ferry. It comprehends that portion of land mentioned as in the parish of Minsterworth (203).

The earliest possessor of the manor mentioned by historians, was Hubert de Burgo, Earl of Kent, 1260, who granted to the priory of Lanthony the tythes of lampreys, and all fish taken in his gorges or fisheries of Elmore. J. de Burg, his son, gave it in dower with one of his kindred

to Nicholas de Gyse, of the family of Gyse, of Asple Gyse, co. Hereford, who assumed the arms of Burg, in honour of that family. The manor was re-granted to his son Sir Anselm Gyse, 1274, at the yearly rent of a clove gilly-flower. It is said, however, that the family of Gyse were only mesne lords under Lanthony, for Sir John Gyse invested three clerks in trust for the priory with the lordship, with the reservation of a fee farm rent, 1358. Whether the inheritance of the manor passed by this grant is uncertain; for Anselm Gyse died seized of it 1412, and Reginald in 1517. It was allowed to be parcel of the honour of Hereford 1359, 1373, and 1558. Sir Christopher Guise, the eleventh in lineal succession from Anselm, who had the manor in the reign of Ed. I. by the gift of John de Burg, was created a Baronet by Charles II. 1661, and Sir William Guise, who died in 1783, was the fifth Baronet. He was unmarried, and on his death bequeathed this, with other estates, to his sister Jane, Lady of the Hon. and Right Rev. Shute Barrington, Lord Bishop of Durham, who in her right is lord of the manor (227), and with the exception of a few small freeholds, proprietor of the whole parish.

Elmore-Court, the manerial house, stands on an elevated situation, and was built in the reign of Elizabeth, by John Guise, Esq. with stone brought from the castle of the De Bohuns, Earls of Hereford, at Harscomb (239).

Ten freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 300—300—381. Houses inhabited, 64.

The benefice is a perpetual curacy augmented in Gloucester deanery. It was endowed by Sir John Guise, the second Baronet, with the privy tythes. The impropriate tythes were given 1137 by Milo, constable of Gloucester,

to the priory of Lanthony, and the vicarial to the church of St. Owen, in Gloucester, and confirmed by Walter de Cantilupo, Bishop of Hereford, 1256. At the dissolution both were granted to the family of Guise⁴⁹, in which family the patronage now is. Joseph Chester, D. D. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, consists of a nave and north aisle, long and spacious, with a low battlemented tower at the west end.

In the churchyard is a mausoleum, in a pyramidal form, supported by arches springing from each angle, under which are deposited the ancestors of the Guise family.

CCXXXIX. HASCOMB, HARSCOMB, *anciently*
HERSECOMF,

Is a parish situate in a secluded *comb* or valley, distant five miles s. from Gloucester. The contents of the whole are about 350 acres, and the soil generally of a stiff clay, chiefly in pasture.

In the early accounts of this manor there is some confusion. One manor, probably that of Brockthorp, is stated to have been let by Earl Lurei for 46*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for the use of the King. The abbey of Gloucester held a manor, which was connected with Brockthorp, in early times, by donation of Adelisa de Ibreio. Of this, the family of Wood were sometime lessees, and Alexander Maitland, Esq. now (237). But the original manor is said to have belonged to the Rufi, or le Rous, of Duntlesborne Militis, the first of whom died seized of it 1273, and it descended, after five generations, to Juliana de Rous, first the wife of Sir Andrew Herle, Knt. and afterwards of Thomas Mill, Esq.

of Tremill, co. Devon. Thomas Mull, or Mill, his heir, settled at Harsconb 1360, and was the ancestor of a family which remained there till the middle of the 17th century, when their estate, much reduced, passed to Sandford and Roberts, from them to the Michells of Randwick, and some years since, first to Thomas, then to his brother, Miles Huntley, Gent. and on the death of the last, in 1790, it came by heirship to Miles Mitchell, Gent. of Westrip, whose uncle married a sister of Miles Huntley. The estate is about a tenth part of the parish.

The estates called *Backhouse* and *Ladderstile* in this, and others in Brockthorp parish, which had been for many years in lease to the family of Savage, fell in to the Bishop of Gloucester, on the death of Colonel G. Savage, and are now in lease to Thomas Smith, Gent. who has other considerable property.

Withyrows is the property of Mr. J. Kembery.

Other proprietors are, Mr. Hewett, Mrs. Jane and Mary Neale, S. Peach, Esq. &c.

Alexander Maitland, Esq. is lessee of the manor.

An old mansion, said to be the castle of the Bohuns, was situated a little to the westward of the church. The materials were carried to Elmore, for the purpose of building the court-house, in the reign of Elizabeth. The appearance of the moat, &c. is still to be observed (238). *see Vol. 1. page 395*

Fourteen freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 60—74—108. Houses inhabited, 24.

The benefice is a rectory in Gloucester deanery, with Pitchcomb annexed. Fourteen acres of glebe belong to the rector.

The church, dedicated to John the Baptist, is a small

building, with a nave only, and a low conic turret, of singular structure, finished with a cross. The dedication of the church was in 1315, according to Bishop Thomas's survey; but either this is a mistake, or the church at this time was newly erected, because in the taxation of ecclesiastical property in or about 1291, a church is mentioned, "*Porco Prioris Lanthon' in Ecclia de Harscomb & Pychenecomb.*"

Value in King's books, (discharged,) 6*l.* 8*s.* 1½*d.*

CCXL. HEMPSTEAD, HEYHAMPSTEDE, *anciently*
HECHANESTEDE,

Is a parish of 600 acres, distant one mile s. from Gloucester, situated on a pleasant eminence, gently declining on all sides, and overlooking the vale in every direction. The soil in general is clay, and principally in pasture. *Sted* signifies a place or station, and probably the name originally might signify Hechane's town or station.

The Berkeley canal, which here runs in a parallel direction with the turnpike road, intersects the parish.

Domesday records the manor, containing five hides, as held by Edric Lang, a thane of Earl Herald's, but then let by the vice-comes or sheriff at 60*s.* a year. In the next century it was parcel of the great property of Milo, Earl of Hereford, who 1136 gave it to the priory of Lanthony, near Gloucester, of his own foundation. The rights of the priory, and among others of free-warren in Hey-Hempstead and Podgemean, were confirmed in subsequent reigns. At the dissolution of religious houses, the Court of Augmentations sold this manor, with a fishery on the Severn to Thomas Atkyns and Margaret his wife 1546, from whom it descended in a regular line to Sir Robert

Atkyns, of Saperton, who about 1708 sold it to Allen Bathurst, Esq. of Cirencester, afterwards Earl Bathurst, of whom it was purchased by Daniel Lysons, Esq. about the middle of last century, from whom it descended to the late Daniel Lysons, M. D. his grandson, and on his death in 1800, Samuel Lysons, Clerk, M. A. of Rodmarton, his brother, became the proprietor.

The manor-house is fronted towards the turnpike-road, and commands a beautiful view of the city and vale of Gloucester. It was built at the beginning of last century, and has received very considerable improvements under the direction of the present proprietor.

The family of Lysons were principal lessees under the manor so early as 1630, but the manor was not purchased till some years after.

Their property now extends to something more than half the parish.

The RHEE or REA, a hamlet lately belonging to T. W. Payne, Esq. is now by purchase the property of Mr T. Bacon.

PODGEMEAD, another hamlet, once parcel of the endowment of the priory of Lanthony, is of considerable extent. At the dissolution this estate, with some others in different places, were sold to Joan Cook, relict of John Cook, alderman of the city of Gloucester. It was afterwards held by Henry Hoskins, Gent, who in 1653 granted it by will to the corporation of Gloucester, on condition that they should renew to the heir male of his descendants a lease for 31 years, at a certain reserved rent, subject to a fine. The present hereditary lessees are George Phelps, Gent. and the family of Hope, and William Newman, Gent. is their assignee.

Two freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 140—129—159. Houses inhabited, 22.

The benefice is a rectory in Gloucester deanery, in the patronage of the Duke of Norfolk, in right of his Dutchess, who was Miss Scudamore. Samuel Commeline, M. A. is incumbent.

It was anciently a chapel to St. Owen's in Gloucester, which was at that time endowed with the small tythes of Hempstead. The great tythes given by Earl Milo 1137, were confirmed to the Augustine canons of Lanthony, about 1240. At the general suppression they were granted to Sir Christopher Hatton, and were sold afterwards to Henry Powell, Esq. who resold them, 1662, to Lord Scudamore. By authority of Parliament, he made this church rectorial, and endowed it with all the impropriate tythes, to which he added the tythes of the extraparochial demesne of Lanthony adjoining. At this time the ancient house assigned for the officiating minister being much dilapidated, the same noble benefactor erected the present parsonage house, at the expence of 700*l*. Over the door is written in gold letters;

Whoe'er doth dwell within this door,
Thank God for Viscount Scudamore.

The church, dedicated to St. Swithin, consists of a nave and chancel, with a tower, low but neat. The architecture is probably of the early part of the fourteenth century. There are remains of handsome decoration on the inside, such as painted bricks and stained glass in the windows. Under canopies the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth is represented. The font is curious and antique.

Value in King's books, 8*l*.

CCXLI. MATSON, MATESKNOLLE, MATTESDUNE,
anciently MATESDEN,

Is a small parish, two miles s. e. from Gloucester. It contains 323 acres of land, the soil of which is a mixture of clay and loam, principally in pasture. The name does not occur in Domesday survey, but the termination of the old names *knoll*, *dune*, and *den*, evidently refer to the hill, as its principal characteristic, and the prefix may probably be the name of some ancient proprietor, who has not been recorded.

The hill, which rises conically out of the vale, is called Robinhood's Hill, or, perhaps with far more propriety, Robin's-wood Hill, probably from the family of Robins, who were mesne tenants for many years. It is not at all likely that Robinhood, the hero of romance, could be connected with this part of the island⁵⁰. The hill forms a beautiful object to the surrounding country, being to the very summit in a state of fertile cultivation, and covered with continual verdure, almost in the driest seasons. It is said that before the Norman conquest great quantities of iron ore were supplied from this hill to the forges in Gloucester. The ochreous water that issues from the sides seems to shew, that this ore is concealed in its bowels, but not any scoria or cinders have been found, which are generally considered as the proofs of ancient blomaries having been worked. It has, however, been for more than four hundred years useful in another respect, in the supply of water of an excellent quality to the city of Gloucester. W. Gerard having granted the monks of the Grey Friars in Gloucester the privilege of water from this place, a question arose between that house and the abbey as to the quantity the former was to receive, which was settled by

Edward the Black Prince. At this day the water is conveyed by pipes to every part of city; and the inhabitants, by means of smaller pipes, have a regular supply in their own houses, at a moderate expence. The profits arising therefrom, as well as the expences of repairs, belong to Lord Sydney.

The manor of Matson was held of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, 46 Ed. III. William de Gardinis had been lord of Mattesdon in the reign of Ed. I.—During the former period many leases are still extant in the archives of Gloucester cathedral. It was given to the abbey by W. Nottingham, Esq. attorney general to Ed. IV. for the erecting of a chantry in the abbey, to be supplied by two of their monks. At the dissolution the manor was granted to the chapter of Gloucester, 33 H. VIII. The mansion-house, with its appurtenances, which had been parcel of the possessions of Lanthony, and in P. N. tax. are recited as containing one carucate of land, were granted to the mayor and burgesses of Gloucester, 34 H. VIII. who, with the King's licence, sold the same to Thomas Lane, Esq. 1544, from whom it passed to Richard Pate, Esq. and then to his daughter Susannah, wife of Richard Brooke, and in marriage dower to Sir Ambrose Willoughby, Knt. From him it came by purchase to Jasper Selwyn, Esq. at the latter end of Elizabeth's reign. He was of Stonehouse, descended from John Selwyn, who settled in this county from Sussex, Rich. III. The estate passed in regular line to Colonel John Selwyn, eldest son of Major Gen. Wm. Selwyn, Governor of Jamaica. The ancient entail being cut off, it was re-entailed on the descendants of his daughter, Albinia, wife of the Hon. T. Townsend. On his death it descended to John, who died

1751, leaving a younger brother and successor, George Augustus, representative in several parliaments for Gloucester; on whose death in 1791, it devolved to Thomas Lord Viscount Sydney, eldest son of Thomas and Albinia Townsend before mentioned, who is now lord of the manor, and proprietor of nearly the whole of the parish, except three small estates belonging to T. Mee, Esq. Rob. Raikes, Esq. and John Howell, Esq. of Prinknash.

By virtue of the act for redemption of the land-tax, an exchange took place between the chapter and Lord Sydney, by which his Lordship's estate was enfranchised at Matson, and the Lower Sheephouse in Tuffley given up to the chapter by way of compensation.

The mansion-house was built by Sir Ambrose Willoughby, Knt. in the reign of Eliz. and during the siege of Gloucester in the rebellion, was the residence of King Charles and his court. The army were stationed in Tredworth field, to which place, according to the *Iter Carolinum*, he came Aug. 10, 1643. William Fendall, Esq. is the present occupier.

One freeholder voted in 1776.

Population, 50—45—51. Houses, 8.

The benefice is a rectory in Gloucester deanery. By a late inclosure it has been much improved, and in lieu of tythes has a considerable estate allotted.

Ernulph, the son of Ralph, gave the church of Mattesdone to the abbey of Gloucester, and Simon, Bishop of Worcester, confirmed the grant. At the dissolution it was granted to the chapter of Gloucester, 34 Hen. VIII. and the dean and chapter are now patrons. Edward Jones, M. A. is incumbent.

The old church was taken down in 1739, and the pre-

sent neat building erected, at the sole expence of Albinia Selwyn, relict of Major General Selwyn. The churchyard is planted with evergreen shrubs, which give a neat appearance.

In P. N. tax. the portion of the church of the Blessed Mary before the abbey gate in the church of Matesdon, 5s.

The portion of the precentor of St. Peter, Gloucester, 10s.

Value in King's books, 3*l.* 16*s.* 5½*d.*

CCXLII. PITCHCOMBE, *anciently* PYCHENECOMB,

Is a parish of about 200 acres, distant five miles s. e. from Gloucester. The soil is generally rich, and applied to pasture. The streams of water which run through it, make the situation commodious for cloth-working, and several mills are employed for that purpose. The termination *Combe* easily explains the nature of the village.

The name is not mentioned in Domesday, and therefore at that time it was probably a part of Harscomb, as it is now in some respects united to it. It appears by an extract from the Pipe Office, that *firma de Pinchcomb* belonged to Osbert Gifford, in the reign of Hen. III. Walter de Bruhl released to Gloucester abbey, and the almoner of Standish a messuage, lands, and a hundred acres of wood in Pychenecomb 1303, and Gilbert de Maysinton gave two messuages and lands in the same place to Gloucester abbey the same year. The abbey of Gloucester had free-warren in all their demesne lands in Pychenecombe, 1355. At the dissolution, a messuage and lands, with Pitchcombe wood, were granted to Richard Andrews and Nicholas Temple in trust. Thomas Porter, Knt. died

seized of the scite and capital mansion of the manor of Pitchcombe, 1598. John Throckmorton was lord of the manor in 1608. Thomas Stephens, of Lypiatt at the beginning of last century, who was succeeded by John Stephens. On his death it came to his nephew Thomas Baghot de la Bere, of Southam, and from him by purchase to Paul Wathen, Esq. of Lypiatt, the present lord of the manor, without any land attached.

The parish, which is not more than five hundred a year, is principally divided between John Hollings, Esq. John Carruthers, Esq. Mr. John Palling, and some small landholders.

Thirteen freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 80—90—216. Houses inhabited, 40.

The benefice is rectorial in Gloucester deanery. The patronage is in the family of Purnell, of Kingshill, near Dursley, and Charles Wallington, M. A. is incumbent. It is annexed to Harscomb.

The church is small, consisting of a nave only, with a chancel and low tower at the west end.

CCXLIII. SOUTH HAMLETS.

1. LANTHONY comprehends several estates on the s. side of the city, among which the principal belongs to the Duke of Norfolk, being the scite and lands anciently belonging to the monastery of Lanthony.

The Upper Sheep-house, with Sudgroves, is the property of Lord Viscount Sidney. *The Lower Sheep-house* belongs to the dean and chapter of Gloucester (241).

The Rigley-stile Grounds belong to John White, Esq. of Stonehouse, co. Gloucester.

Besides these, are some other small properties.

Before the canal was dug, a little island was formed between the present bason and the river, called the *Neight*⁵¹.

The PRIORY of LANTHONY was founded in 1137 by Milo, constable of Gloucester, for Austin Canons, to the honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist, and for the reception of the monks of Lanthony, in the north part of Monmouthshire, who had been driven from their habitation by the ravages and ill-usage of the Welch. The new monastery was built on a place called the *Hide*, and, as appears by the charter of Milo, amply endowed. At first it was only a cell to the old monastery, but afterwards became the head house, and much exceeded the other in revenues⁵², being endowed at the dissolution with 748*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.* The possessions of this religious house are taken notice of in the respective places or parishes as they occur. In the time of P. N. tax. the revenues amounted to 71*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*

The scite was granted 32 Hen. VIII. to Arthur Porter, and Thomas Porter had livery of it 1558. Thomas Porter left an only daughter, married to Sir John Scudamore, ancestor to Lord Viscount Scudamore, of Hom Lacy, co. Heref. who was proprietor at the beginning of last century. The Duke of Norfolk, by marriage with Frances Fitzroy Scudamore, is the present proprietor.

Very little now remains of the old monastery; the barn is the principal part. Over the gate-way are the arms of the great family of the Bohuns, Earls of Hereford; some of whom were buried in the church of the monastery.

In digging the Berkeley canal, the foundations of the old church were discovered, and some bodies disturbed,

but no stones appeared, which could ascertain by inscriptions the names or dates of any of them⁵³.

At the dissolution this hamlet was exempted from the payment of tythes, as being the demesne lands of the priory of Lanthony; but John Lord Scudamore 1662 annexed all the tythes to the rectory of Hempstead, which grant was confirmed by Act of Parliament(240).

Newark-house, standing on a fine elevation, which commands a view of the vale, is the property of the same family. It was built in the 17th century, on the same spot where stood the house belonging to the prior of Lanthony. It is said that in consequence of the abbot of Gloucester building for himself a country residence at the Vineyard, the prior felt something of rival jealousy, and erected another, which he called Newark(231). Both houses experienced the same fate in the great rebellion. Behind the latter are still to be seen the entrenchments and earth-works.

One freeholder voted in 1776.

Population, —, —, 60. Houses inhabited, 8.

2. LITTLEWORTH, or *Little Village* (225), lies just without the liberties of the city, on the south side.

Gaudy Green is the property of Sir Thomas Crawley Boevey, Bart.(215)

The hamlet is small, and divided into inconsiderable portions.

Both Lanthony and Littleworth are extra-parochial, and have their respective and separate officers.

Seven freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, —, 100 — 150. Houses inhabited, 39.

3. TUFFLEY, *anciently Tufflege*, is part of the parish of St. Mary de Lode, lying on the s. e. side of the city. It belonged to the abbey of Gloucester before the Conquest,

and excepting a temporary alienation, about the time of Hen. II. continued with it till the dissolution, and was then granted to the dean and chapter of Gloucester; but the tythes of Tuffley, and a place called Sudgroves mentioned before, were granted to Arthur Porter, 32 Hen. VIII.

The Atkyns's were anciently tenants of the manor, and held a large estate in this place, where they had a good house and park. This is now the property of Thomas Mee, Esq. of Gloucester.

Considerable estates belong to Sam. Lysons, Clerk(240), and Edward Wilbraham, Esq.(168)

No freeholder voted in 1776.

Population, —, 140—112. Houses inhabited, 18.

✓ 4. WOLSTROP is reckoned among the South Hamlets by Rudder, but improperly; as in every respect, but that of being in a different hundred, it is a member of Quedgeley, and is included in the account of that parish(181).

CCXLIV. UPTON SAINT LEONARD's *anciently* OPTUNE,

Is a parish distant three miles E. from Gloucester. It contains more than 2500 acres of land, of which half is in pasture, the remainder in tillage and woodland. The soil in general is clay or loam. The situation of the village on a gentle elevation, gives the etymology of *Upton* or *Upper Town*.

Optune was a member of the great manor of Bertune or Barton, and appears in Domesday survey, among the crown lands. There were anciently two manors of the common name of Upton. Walkelyn de Fabrica held Uptone of Edw. I. by the service of paying 200 arrow heads. Edmond Fitz Alan had the manor in the reign of Edw. II.

but on his being beheaded at Hereford, all his lands came to the crown, and this manor was granted 1330 to Richard de Munemuth. It afterwards belonged to the Dukes of Norfolk, and to different branches of the Arundel family till 1455, when Eleanor, the widow of Sir Walter Hungerford, late wife of Sir Richard Poinings, and formerly the wife of John, Earl of Arundel, died seized of it.

Another manor belonged to the Berkeleys, from the reign of Edw. III. to the 3d of Mary.

The manor of Upton was granted to Walter Pye and William Beal, 1605.

The manor now belongs to the freeholders, and is vested in Benjamin Hyett, Robert Campbell, Peter Snell, and Robert Raikes, Esqrs. for their use.

Bullins is a reputed manor belonging to Lord Sydney, who has other considerable property besides.

Grove Court is another reputed manor, formerly the property of Jeoffery de Grave, who held one yard land in Upton, by the service of attending the King in his wars against Wales, with bow and arrows, 40 days at his own expence, and afterwards at the cost of the King, 1221. This estate afterwards passed to the Berkeleys; then to Richard Walter, Esq. at the beginning of last century; now to Joseph Blisset, Esq.

Creed's Place is the property of Thomas Jeffreys, Esq. The house was built a few years since on an estate purchased of the late Sir John Guise, Bart. in 1770, by Robert Campbell, Esq.

Whitley Court is a good house, surrounded by a considerable estate, the property of Peter Snell, Esq.

St. Bridge, Simbridge Farm, with other lands, belongs to Robert Raikes, Esq.

The *Lower Farm* is vested in Benjamin Hyett, Esq.

The *Farm*, with other estates, belongs to John Howell, Esq. of Prinknash.

The remaining property within this parish is very much divided among small landholders.

Thirty-three freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 450—300—621. Houses inhabited, 123.

The benefice is a perpetual curacy in Gloucester deanery. The impropriation belongs to the see of Gloucester, and is now in lease to Mr. Thomas Frankis, of Upton, the patronage being reserved to the Bishop. Samuel Comeline, A. M. is incumbent⁵⁴.

The church, dedicated to St. Leonard, has a nave and north aisle, with a well proportioned embattled tower at the west end.

At the west end of the north chancel is a turret for the Saint's bell. This chancel is now the dormitory of the Snell family. There are many appearances of antiquity about the church, particularly the south door-way, now stopped up, the arch of the chancel, &c. The nave is certainly much more modern, as well as the tower; on the south side of which is the following, on a tablet:—

This tower was repaired, and the pinnacles first erected, in the year 1745; Sir Tho. Snell, Knt. and Rich. Frankis, churchwardens.

PRINKNASH is an extra-parochial district, adjoining to Upton St. Leonard's, about four miles E. from Gloucester. It contains 190 acres of meadow and pasture land, and 37 of arable. The derivation of the first part of the name is uncertain, but the latter part seems to be easily explained from its situation. *Ness*, Saxon, *Ness*, English, signifies a promontory, as *Sheerness* in the isle of Shepey, and answers to *Rhyn*, British, in composition *Penrhyn*, the common word for a promontory or ridge of land.

This manor anciently belonged to the abbey of St. Peter in Gloucester. Edw. III. granted free-warren 1355, which was confirmed by Rich. II. and by the interest of the abbot was made extra-parochial. At the dissolution it was granted, under limitations, to Edward Bridges and Dorothy Praye, 1545, and the reversion of the house and park, which were formerly the retreat of the abbots, was granted to Sir William Sandys and Thomas Spencer 1606. The estate was soon after purchased by Sir John Bridgeman, Chief Justice of Chester, descended from an ancient family, who resided at Littledean, co. Glo. John Bridgeman, Esq. was lord of the manor at the beginning of the last century, from whom it descended to Henry Toy Bridgeman, Esq. of whom it was purchased in 1770, by John Howell, Esq. who dying 1802, was succeeded by his son, Thomas Bayley Howell, Esq. the present proprietor.

The house is situated on the acclivity of the hill, sheltered from the east winds by the high ground behind it, and in the front looking over an extensive and rich tract of land.

In the house is a private chapel, consecrated 1629, and dedicated to St. Peter.

The population is included in Upton.

CCXLV. WHADDON, *anciently* WADUNE,

Is a parish of 700 acres, three miles s. from Gloucester. The soil is chiefly a deep clay, and more adapted to pasture than arable. The elm grows freely here, and fruit-trees of various kinds.

Domesday records Wadune as held by Durand the sheriff, and containing five hides. The manor afterwards came to Robert de Pont de Larch, or Pont de l'Arch, 30 H. III. Robert Waleran, sheriff of the county,

was seized of it in the next year, 1246, and obtained the grant of an annual fair, to be held on the eve, the day, and the morrow after the feast of Margaret the virgin. William de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, brother on the female side to Hen. III. received the manors of Whaddon and Moreton Valence, by gift of Rob. de Pont de Larch, and had a confirmation of them from the King 1252, and privileges of court leet and free warren were allowed him 1287. Audomar de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, surviving son, dying 1324, left no issue, wherefore his property passed to his three sisters, co-heiresses. Joan, the youngest, was wife of John Comyn, of Badenagh, in Scotland. They left only daughters. Elizabeth, one of them, was married to Rich. Talbot, of Gooderick castle, co. Hereford, by which this and the other manors came into that family, and continued in it till 1456, when they were transferred to John Visc. Lisle, a younger branch of the Talbot family by Margaret, eldest daughter of Rich. Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and Elizabeth, the great heiress of Thomas Lord Berkeley. Margaret, widow of Thomas Viscount Lisle, Elizabeth Courtney, Countess of Devonshire, and Sir Arthur Plantagenet and Elizabeth his wife, cousin and heir of the Countess, were successively in possession, till the property came to the crown, and was granted to Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, and, upon his attainder, to George Earl of Shrewsbury 1539. Sir William Kingston was the next grantee 1541, who was succeeded by his son, who levied a fine to Sir Nich. Pointz 1552. The manor was afterwards transferred from the Kingstons to the Jerninghams of Cossey, co. Norfolk; from whom it again passed to Sir Wm. Dorrington, who was lord of it, 1608. Sir Samuel Eckley was the next proprietor, in the reign of Anne. It afterwards passed to Mr. John Small, and from him to Samuel Peach, Esq.

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who is the present lord of the manor, with about half the parish.

Thomas Smith, Gent. is the only considerable landholder besides.

Four freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 110—123—88. Houses, 20.

The benefice is a curacy annexed to Moreton Valence, in Gloucester deanery. The tythes are appropriated to the church of Hereford, whose lessee generally appoints the curate. Henry Burgh, Esq. is the present lessee, and Benjamin Jones, Clerk, incumbent.

The church dedicated to St. Margaret, consists of a nave and chancel, with a strong embattled tower at the w. end.

In 1299 it was a chapel to Moreton, as appears by the record in P. N. tax. “*Ecclia de Morton cum capell' de Whaddon.*”

Lower Part.

CCXLVI. HARTPURY, HARDEPER, HARDEPERY, *anciently MEREWENT,*

Is a parish of considerable extent, distant five miles N. W. from Gloucester, and six E. from Newent, bounded on the w. by the river Leden. The soil is in general a deep red loamy clay, including 3036 acres, of which about 1170 are in pasture, 367 in meadow, and the remainder in tillage, with a small portion of wood. Abundant crops are generally produced, but the meadow on the banks of the Leden is uncommonly fruitful. Sudden inundations, however, oftentimes injure or carry off the grass when ready

for the scythe, or after it has been converted into hay. Great quantities of cyder and perry of excellent qualities are made here. The original name of *Merewent* occurs in the early records, and gave place (but on what account is not known) to the more modern appellation, about the reign of Hen. I.

Offa, King of Mercia, gave the manor of Merewent to the nunnery established at Gloucester, when Eva was abbess about the year 769, and it continued a parcel of the possession of the abbey of St. Peter, till the dissolution. Sir W. Herbert, Knight of the Garter, the first Earl Pembroke, had a grant of it from Ed. VI. From him it passed by purchase to Walter Compton, Esq. in 1551, and to his descendant Walter Compton, who was created Baronet 1686. Sir Walter Compton, the fifth and last Baronet, died 1773, without issue, and the manor and estates devolved to his surviving sisters, Catherine and Jane. The eldest was married to Edw. Bearcroft, Esq. of Droitwich, co. of Worc. and died in 1775, without issue. Jane was the wife of John Berkeley, M. D. of Hereford, and of that branch of the family which is settled at Spetchley, co. Worcester. They left two daughters, Catherine and Jane. The youngest is married to the Right Hon. Viscount Southwell, and the eldest to Robert Canning, Esq. in whom, by right of marriage, the manor, with the estates, comprehending about three-fourths of the parish, is vested jointly.

The manor house was anciently called *Abbot's Place*, being at that time one of the country residences of the abbots of St. Peter, and for many years after the dissolution, of the Comptons.

For some time it has been inhabited, under the munificence of the benevolent proprietors, by a few nuns, who,

having been obliged to leave the Continent, during the late revolutions, found here a comfortable retreat, in the enjoyment of their own religious opinions.

A considerable estate and manor for many generations belonged to the Pultons, and another to Cha. Hayward, Esq. The former, worth 400*l.* per ann. is by marriage vested in Jeremiah Hawkins, Esq. of Minsterworth (203), and the latter by purchase is annexed to the manor.

HAMLETS.—1. MOREWENT-END.

2. MOOREND, a commonable meadow on the banks of the Leden.

3. CORSE-END. 4. BLACKWELL'S-END. 5. LAMPER'S-END. 6. BUTTER'S-END.

A decisive skirmish was fought here in the civil wars, when Col. Myn, of the royal party, suffered great loss.

Ten freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 300—300—567. Houses inhabited, 92.

The benefice is vicarial in Gloucester deanery. The impropriation is in the Bishop of Gloucester, with a certain portion reserved to the vicar. Robert Berkeley, Esq. of Spetchley, co. Worcester, is lessee in trust for the lords of the manor. The exception in favour of the vicar is about 104 acres, of which the tythes are payable to him. Twenty acres of arable, and 55 of meadow and pasture belonging to the demesnes are exempt. George Rollo, M. A. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, consists of a nave and chancel, with a tower at the west end. The south door exhibits some remains of Saxon architecture, but the general style is that of the middle centuries. In the north window are some remains of painted glass.

In P. N. tax. the church of Hardiper, 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

The vicar's portion, 5*l.* In the King's books, 16*l.* 6*s.* 5½*d.*

CCXLVII. MAYSEMORE, MAZEMORE, MAYSMOR,

Is two miles N. W. from Gloucester, and contains 1408 acres of rich meadow and pasture, with a proportionate quantity of arable. The soil varies with the situation. On the banks of the Severn, which flows on the eastern side, it is a red loam; and on the higher parts clay or gravel. The name does not occur in Domesday, it being at that time a member of St. Mary de Lode, in Gloucester. In a grant of Hen. I. it appears as part of the temporal possessions of the abbey. The etymology is probably from *maes*, celtic for a *field* or *plain*, and *mor* often in composition *water* only; which is perfectly descriptive of its situation on the banks, and subject to the overflowings of the Severn.

The parish was inclosed in 1793, and a great deal of waste and unproductive common brought into cultivation.

Upon the old bridge over the Severn at this place, there formerly stood a cross with this inscription, *In honore Dni nri Jhu Christi, qui nobis crucifixus erat. Ceosie croz fist Willm fiz Anketill de Lilton, et Ciseoli Willm fiz Anketill comenza pont de Mazemore.* That is—for the honour of the Lord Jesus Christ, who was crucified for us, William son of Anketill began the bridge of Mazemore—*Rudder.* This evidently refers to the person who built the cross and began the bridge, but it does not fix the date.

During the siege of Gloucester, a bridge was cut down by Colonel Nich. Myn, commander of the Royal Irish Brigade, and another rebuilt on the restoration of peace. This also being much decayed, was taken down

about twenty years since, and another of two arches built about fifty yards higher up the river.

The manor, with large woods, was given by Hen. I. to the abbey of Gloucester, 1101, with free warren, and continued with the abbey till the dissolution, when it was granted to the Bishop of Gloucester, who is now lord of the manor, and under him the greatest part of the parish is held either by copy or lease.

The *Manor-house*, with an estate of more than 200 acres is held by Benj. Hyett, Esq.

Adjoining to this Wm. Pitt, Esq. has a good house, with nearly 400 acres of land.

The *Persh* estate is the property of Thomas Hawkins, Esq. held in moiety under the Bishop, and chapter⁵⁵.

Other proprietors are Thomas Smith, Esq. T. Rudge, Esq. T. Vallander, Tho. White, &c.

OVERTON, or *Upper town* is the name of a hamlet.

Three freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 200—210—343. Houses inhabited, 51.

The benefice is a perpetual curacy in Gloucester deanery, and has been twice augmented. John Pearce, clerk, is lessee of the impropriation, under the Bishop, who reserves the nomination of the incumbent. By the late act of inclosure, the glebe consists of 133 acres of land, and six cow common of pasture in the ham, in lieu of all tythes. Richard Raikes, clerk, M. A. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Giles, consists of a nave and chancel only, with a handsome embattled tower at the west end. The style of building is of the Tudor æra. The feast of the patron Saint is celebrated on the first Sunday in September annually⁵⁶.

CCXLVIII. PRESTON, *anciently* PRESTETUNE,

Is a parish of 800 acres, situate at the extremity of the county, and in the nearest line about sixteen miles distant from Gloucester. The soil is a deep red loam, chiefly in tillage, except the meadows, which lie on the banks of the Leden. The fruit trees are planted here, as is the practice of this district, in the fields. The name is derived from the ancient proprietors, (*Priest-town*), it having been from a very early period appendant to a religious house.

This parish is entirely separated by many miles from any part of the hundred, of which it is a member.—Anciently before the consolidation of the hundreds, it was a part of Tolangebriges hundred, as appears from the Domesday record, “The church of St. Peter, Gloucestre, holds Prestetune, in Tolangebriges hundred.” In the same church it continued till the dissolution, when it was granted to the new see of Gloucester, under which it has long been leased to the family of Bromley.

The manor-house near the church, called the *Court*, is built in the stile of the seventeenth century, and was the residence of former proprietors, but is now occupied by John Wood, Gent. the tenant of the greatest part of the parish.

The *White house*, a competent estate belongs to — Elton, Esq. and is the only one detached from the manor.

One freeholder voted in 1776.

Population, 60—70—87. Houses, 16.

The benefice is a vicarage in the Forest deanery, in the patronage of the Bishop of Gloucester, and Jenkin Jenkins, clerk, is incumbent.

The church is small and inconsiderable, consisting of a nave and chancel, with a low wooden tower at the west end. In the south window of the nave is preserved a painting on glass, of the crucifixion. The north door is of Saxon architecture, and probably a part of the church as it stood before, or soon after, the conquest.

In P. N. tax. the church of Preston, 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

In the King's books (discharged) 7*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*



BERKELEY DIVISION,

IS divided into Upper and Lower, and contains 7 hundreds, 7 market-towns, 71 parishes, 13,240 houses inhabited, 15,127 families, 488 houses uninhabited, 34,256 males, 39,321 females, 13,567 persons employed in agriculture, 13,848 in trade, 46,162 not engaged in any particular occupation, and 73,577 total.

VII. BERKELEY HUNDRED.—*Upper Part.*

249 Ashelworth	259 Nimpsfield
250 Arlingham	260 North Nibley
251 BERKELEY, m. t.	261 Olepen
252 Beverstone	262 Ozleworth
253 Cam	263 Slimbridge
254 Coaley	264 Stinchcomb
255 Cromhall	265 Stone
256 DURSLEY, m. t.	266 Uley
257 Kingscot	267 WOTTON, m. t.
258 Newington	

Lower Part.

268 Almondsbury	271 Hill
269 Elberton	272 Horfield
270 Filton	

VIII. GRUMBALDS ASH.—*Upper Part.*

273 Alderley	279 Hawkesbury
274 Badminton, Great	280 Horton
275 Badminton, Little	281 Oldbury on the Hill
276 Boxwell and Leighterton	282 Tortworth
277 Charfield	283 WICKWAR, m. t.
278 Didmarton	

Lower Part.

284 Acton Turville	288 Sodbury, Little
285 Doddington	289 Sodbury, Old
286 Dyrham and Hinton	290 Tormarton
287 SODBURY, CHIPPING, m. t.	291 Wapley and Codrington
	292 West Littleton

IX. PUCKLECHURCH.

293 Cold Aston	296 Westerleigh
294 Pucklechurch	297 Wick and Abston
295 Syston	

X. LANGLEY AND SWINESHEAD.

298 Alveston	302 Littleton on Severn
299 Bitton	303 Olveston
300 Deynton	304 Rockhampton
301 Frampton Cotterell	305 Winterbourn

XI. THORNBURY.—*Upper.*

306 MARSHFIELD, m. t.

Lower.

307 Acton, Iron	309 THORNBURY, m. t.
308 Rangeworthy	310 Tytherington

XII. HENBURY.

311 Compton Greenfield	314 Westbury on Trim
312 Henbury	315 Yate
313 Stoke Giffard	

XIII. BARTON REGIS.

316 Clifton	318 St. George's
317 Mangotsfield	319 Stapleton

At the time of the conquest EDERASTAN and part of BACHESTANE's were included in the modern hundred of THORNBURY.

LANGLEI, LANGNEI, SUINEHEVE, SINESHOVEDS, TUIFERDE, nearly in SWINESHEAD.

BERTUNE *apud* BRISTOW, part of WESBERIE, and BERNINTRERE, in BARTON REGIS and HENBURY.

POLCRECERCE in PUCKLECHURCH.

GRIMBOLDESTOWES*, part of BACHESTANE's, part of POLCRECERCE, and EDREDESTAN, EDERESTAN, in GRUMBALDSASH.

* Grimboldestowes, means Grimbold's place, now corrupted to Grumbaldsash.

BERKELEY DIVISION.

VII. BERKELEY HUNDRED.—*Upper Part.*

CCXLIX. ASHELWORTH, *anciently* ESCELEUUORDE,

Is a parish four miles N. from Gloucester, and separated at least ten miles from the nearest part of the hundred to which it belongs. It contains about 1560 acres of land, of which about one third is in tillage, and the remainder rich pasture and meadow, particularly on the banks of the Severn, which bounds it on the east. The soil is partly a light loam, and in some places inclining to sand. A whitish clay stone, which burns very well to lime is found not far below the surface.

This manor, of three hides, belonged to Berchelai, and was part of that lordship in the time of Edward the Confessor. It was given by Robert Fitz-harding to the abbey of St. Augustine, in Bristol, which he founded, and remained there till the dissolution, when it was granted, with the rectory and advowson, 1543, to the see of Bristol. Charles Hayward, Esq. was the lessee under the Bishop of Bristol, of the manor and greatest part of the parish. On his death in 1803 he was succeeded in this and other large estates by his brother Thomas Hayward Winstone, Esq. (181)

The manor-house, which bears the marks of great antiquity, is now occupied by a farmer.

PLACES. 1. *Longridge*. 2. *Knights Green*. 3. *Nupping end*. 4. *White end*. 5. *High Cross*. 6. *Wickeridge*. 7. *Mare-end*; all of which are included in one tything of Asselworth.

The only freehold estate in the parish, about sixty pounds a year, belongs to Jesse Colchester (not a branch of the Westbury family). The others are held by lease or copy under the principal lessee.

Six freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 350 —, 476. Houses, 80.

The benefice is a vicarage in Gloucester deanery, in the patronage of the Bishop of Bristol, and James Edwards, M. A. is incumbent. The impropriation, with the exception of some great tythes belonging to the vicar, is held by lease with the manor. The vicarage house is a very old building, chiefly of timber.

The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, consists of a nave and south aisle, with a good tower, embatteled, six bells, and a stone spire upon it, at the west end. There are two chancels, one of which belongs to the lord of the manor. It is liable to inundation from its vicinity to the river. In 1770, November 18, the water rose to the height of four feet seven inches through the whole church.

In P. N. tax. the abbot of St. Augustine, Bristol, holds at Asselworth of rent sixty-six shillings and eight-pence.

The church of Asselworth, 6*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* The vicar's portion, 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* In the King's books, 11*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*

CCL. ARLINGHAM, *anciently* ERLINGHAM,

Is thirteen miles s. w. from Gloucester, and contains 2100 acres of deep rich soil, which are applied in nearly equal proportions to tillage and pasture.

The common meads and fields were inclosed in 1802.

The name is supposed to be derived from the British words *Ar*, upon, *Ing*, a meadow, or watery place, and *Ham*, a village, that is, a village in a watery place.

From this parish a communication is maintained with the western side of the county and Wales, by a ferry across the Severn to Newnham, the passage-house being on the opposite side (207).

The Severn in this district makes a very singular turn, and comprizes this parish and Frethern completely within a peninsula, in the form of a horse-shoe; the distance from the nearest points not much exceeding half a mile.

This parish is in the Upper Level, and under the management of the Commissioners of Sewers, who by judicious arrangements and banks have preserved 738 acres from inundation.

Erlingham, as it is written in Domesday, is one of the five inferior manors, which were parcel of the great manor of Berkeley, and is now, though distinct in other respects, within the leet of that hundred; but it appears that there was formerly more than one manor in this parish. The abbot of St. Augustine, in Bristol, was seized of a manor, 1287, of lands called Kern and Bethlea, which at the dissolution were given to the chapter of Bristol⁵⁷. The monks of Flaxley had another manor, which was granted to Sir Anthony Kingston, 1545. The principal manor continued in the Berkeley family, till William, Marquis of Berkeley, granted it with some others

to Henry the seventh and his heirs male. On the death of Edw. VI. it reverted to Henry Lord Berkeley, who had livery thereof granted to him 1 Mary (251). The family of Westwood were afterwards the proprietors, and Robert Westwood on the death of his father had livery thereof 1 Eliz. From this family it passed to the Yates. They came in with the conqueror, and have been possessed of property in Arlingham more than 500 years. John-at-Yate, by marriage with the youngest daughter of John Berkeley, who died in 1321, became seized of an estate in Arlingham. He left a son, John, whose son, of the same name, died 1368. William his son left two sons, Richard and Walter, the former dying without issue, Walter succeeded, and from him came in lineal descent, Thomas, Richard, Richard, and Walter, who was high sheriff of the county in 1696. Richard, his son by Elizabeth, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Thomas Price, Esq. mayor of Gloucester, had two sons, Charles and John, and three daughters, two of whom died in their infancy. Charles, son and heir of Richard, by marriage with Mary, daughter and co-heiress of ——— Hickes, Esq. had one son, John, to whom the manor and estate devolved in 1738. On his death without issue in 1758, the male line was extinct. It is now the property of Dame Dorothy Mill, relict of the late Sir Richard Mill, Bart. of Mattisford, Hants, and daughter of Richard Warren, Esq. late of Redcliff, near Bristol, by Henrietta his wife, who was youngest daughter of Charles Yate, Esq. of Coldthrop(183), by Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Yate, who married Elizabeth Price, as before(26).

The old family mansion called the *Court*, is said to have been built nearly five hundred years. Round a side door that leads into a court before the house, is some sculpture

in stone, which bears the marks of great antiquity. The style, however, of the present building, is of the early part of Hen. VIII. as appears by the square gothic windows.

Slowwe, is a handsome old house, belonging to the family of Hodges, to whom it came by purchase in 1586, from the Bridgemans. It continued in the family of Hodges till Thomas Hodges, Clerk, died in 1784, and in him the male line of Slowwe ending, the estate passed to his sister.

Puckpool is a good estate belonging to Mr. William Carter.

Other proprietors are, Sir S. Wathen, Knt. Ch. Veele, Esq. &c.

Thirty-two freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 400—372—506. Houses inhabited, 87.

The benefice is a vicarage in Gloucester deanery. It was anciently given by Roger, Lord Berkeley to the priory of Leonard's Stanley. In 1502, upon Leonard's Stanley becoming a cell to the abbey of Gloucester, that society presented to it. After the dissolution, the rectory and advowson were granted to Sir William Rider, 1610; were afterwards in the Bridgemans and Toyes; and from them came by purchase to Mrs. Eliz. Rogers, who presented Thomas Jackson, A. M. the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, consists of a nave only, and chancel. Part of the ground on which it stands was given by one of the Yates, and the style of architecture is that of the fifteenth century. The interior is very neat, having been lately pewed. The pulpit, cloth, and cushion, of purple velvet richly fringed, were given by Lady Mill, and a handsome service of communion plate by the late John Yate, Esq. Some portraits of

saints appear in the windows in stained glass. The tower is ornamented with a parapet of open Gothic work; and at the end of the nave is a turret for a saint's bell.

In P. N. tax. the church of Erlingham, 18*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

In the King's books, 19*l.* 7*s.* 3½*d.*

CCLI. BERKELEY, *anciently* BERCHELAI,

From which the hundred takes its name, is sixteen miles from Gloucester, seven N. from Thornbury, and one mile from the Severn, with which it communicates by the Avon, a small river, but capable of carrying vessels of forty or fifty tons burthen. The tide flows up this narrow channel round the castle gardens, near a mile above the town. The soil is composed of clay and rich loam, and is principally pasture. Here, and in the neighbourhood, is made the famous cheese called single and double Gloucester; the best sorts of which are exceeded in no country whatever. Golden, or London-pippin cyder is made in good perfection here.

The town of Berkeley is called a borough, though it sends no Members to Parliament. A MSS. written by John Smith the elder of Nibley, 1639, in possession of the Earl of Berkeley, explains the signification of burgh or borrow in the following manner: "Burgh or borrow
" notes unto us from the Saxon, that the place was an-
" ciently fortified; the prints whereof are in some places
" not digged down or washed out; the name also of
" Lockfast-bridge yet remaininge, leading from Hame,
" over the further ewe or water, seemeth to imply as
" much." The town in former days was certainly much larger than it is now. At present it consists principally of one street, containing very few good buildings. In

consequence of the change in the direction of the main turnpike road, it is little visited, except for the purposes of business or curiosity. Tuesday is the regular market-day, but it is not much attended.

The manor is one of the largest in England, taxed in Domesday at 160 hides, and 294 plow tillages and a half.

The noble family of Berkeley were so much concerned in the affairs of most of the reigns from the conquest, and so many historical anecdotes belong to them, that it would take up more room to relate than is compatible with the plan of a compressed history. The following account brings down the pedigree to the present time.

Roger, who came in the retinue of the Conqueror, was rewarded with this manor, and took the name of de Berkeley from it. On his death without issue, William, his nephew and heir, possessed it about 1100. He was succeeded by Roger, his son, who, taking part with Stephen against Henry II. was dispossessed of his castle, and lost his estate. Henry, as a reward for the services he had received, granted the castle and lordship of Berkeley to Robt. Fitzharding, governor of Bristol, descended, according to Leland, from the Kings of Denmark; and Robt. Fitzharding, the ancestor of the present family, took his seat in the House of Peers as Lord Berkeley, 1. Hen. II. By family intermarriages, a reconciliation took place between the late and newly created lord; and the former having been restored to the barony of Dursley, voluntarily released all right to the barony of Berkeley. On his death, 1170, Maurice, his second son, (Henry, the elder, having died young) succeeded, took the name of Berkeley, and was the first who resided here. He was succeeded, in 1189, by Robert, his eldest son. This lord took up arms twice against John, and lost his castle and

lands. In the 18 John, he obtained a grant of the manor of Cam, on his submission, and upon the accession of Hen. III. was restored to all his lands, except the castle and town of Berkeley. He died 1220. Thomas, his brother, had restitution of the castle, 8 Hen. III. He died in 1243, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Maurice the second. He had attended his father in the wars against France, and, 41 Hen. III. was in the expedition with Prince Edward against the Welsh. He was succeeded by Thomas, his second surviving son, a wise and provident person. Dying, in 1321, he was succeeded by Maurice the third, his eldest son, who had been summoned twice to parliament in his father's life-time, as lord Berkeley, of Berkeley castle; and being of a warlike character, was engaged in many military actions; and after having been successful against the Spencers, with the earl of Lancaster, was, by a strange reverse of affairs, with his adherents, declared traitors; and refusing to submit, lost his castle and lands, and was sent prisoner to Wallingford castle, and died there in 1326. Thomas the third, second lord Berkeley, succeeded his father, and had the castle of Berkeley delivered to him, whereof Hugh le Despencer had possessed himself. During this lord's time, Edward the second was murdered at Berkeley, but he was acquitted both by jury and also parliament of having been concerned in it. He died in 1361, and was buried in Berkeley church, when Sir Maurice the fourth succeeded him, and died in 1367. Thomas, eldest son, succeeded as fourth lord Berkeley. He first let out his estates at a yearly rent, a custom which then began to prevail over England. He died without issue male, and was succeeded by his nephew, James⁵⁸, who died 1463, and was buried in an alabaster tomb, in a chapel he had built on the south side of the

high altar, in Berkeley church. William, his eldest son, was sixth lord of Berkeley, and died without issue in 1491, after having been created viscount and marquis of Berkeley, and lies buried in the church of the Friars Augustins, near Broad-street, London. Here the family honours are interrupted; for the Marquis having taken exception at his brother Maurice's conduct, settled the castle and appendages on Henry the seventh and his issue male; in failure of which, to revert to the right heirs of the Marquis. Maurice, the fifth of that name, chiefly resided at Yate. He died 1506, and was succeeded by Maurice the sixth, his son, who was made Knight of the Bath, at the coronation of Hen. VIII. and summoned to parliament as a baron, 14 Hen. VIII. He died without issue, 1523, and was buried at Calais. Thomas, his brother, succeeded, and was made constable of Berkeley castle, which was then in the crown. He died 1531, and was succeeded by Thomas, his eldest son, the sixth of that name, who being in his way to London from Yate (315), where he resided, died at Stone, county of Kent, and was buried there, in 1535.

Henry, a posthumous son, was his heir, and recovered the long-lost honours and lordships which William, the Marquis, had settled on King Henry VII. For Edward VI. dying before he was of full age, and no heirs of the male line being left, by special warrant from the Queen, he was put in possession of the barony of his ancestors, and summoned by writ to parliament, and there placed according to his ancient precedence. He was appointed lord lieutenant of the county of Gloucester, 7 Jac. He died in 1613, and was buried in the chancel at Berkeley. His eldest son, Thomas, died before him, but left a son, George, who succeeded his grandfather as twelfth lord of

Berkeley, if the succession had not been interrupted. He died in 1658, and was succeeded by his only surviving son, George, who was advanced to the dignity of Viscount Dursley and Earl of Berkeley, 31 C. II. 1679. He died in 1689, and was buried at Cranford, in the county of Middlesex.

Charles, his eldest son, succeeded to the honours and estates. He had been made Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Charles II. and, in 1680 and 1681, returned member in parliament for Gloucester. He died in 1710, and was interred in the family vault at Berkeley. He was succeeded by James, his second son, third earl, who, in the same year, was made lord lieutenant of the county of Gloucester and city of Bristol, warden of the Forest of Dean, and high steward of the city of Gloucester. He gave many proofs of skill and gallantry in the sea service, and was made Vice-Admiral of the White in 1709. During his father's life, he was called by writ to the House of Peers, by the title of Lord Dursley. His lordship died in 1736, and was buried at Berkeley. On his death, his eldest son, Augustus, became the fourth Earl of Berkeley, and from him, by marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Drax, of Charborough, in Dorsetshire, and of Ellerton abbey, in Yorkshire, Esq. descended the present earl; lady Elizabeth, first married to Lord Craven, now the Margravine of Anspach; and Admiral George Cranfield Berkeley, member for the county of Gloucester.

Frederick Augustus, the present and fifth earl, and the twenty-first in descent from Harding, the Dane, was born May 24, 1745, and succeeded to the family honours and estates in 1755. His Lordship's titles are Earl of Berkeley, Viscount Dursley, Baron Berkeley, of Berkeley castle, Mowbray, Seagrave, and Breaus of Gower, in Glamorgan-

shire, Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the county of Gloucester, and of the cities of Bristol and Gloucester, Constable of the castle of St. Briavel, and Warden of the Forest of Dean, High Steward of Gloucester, and Colonel of the militia of the county and cities of Gloucester and Bristol.

The present form of the castle is nearly that of a circle. The great gate leads, under a lofty pile of building, connected with the keep on the left side, into an irregular court, about one hundred and forty yards round. The keep, whose walls are very lofty and massive, resembles the form of a Roman D, flanked by three semicircular towers, besides that in which the great stone stair-case is contained, which is square, and has a small room where Edward is said to have been murdered. The whole is rudely embatteled. The original building was finished some time before or about the reign of Stephen, by Roger de Berkeley. Many parts have been added at different periods. The hall, which is 48 feet by 33, was built in the reign of Edward the third. It is a lofty room, and has four windows on the north side, of Norman architecture. Of the same date is the chapel of St. Mary adjoining, which is 36 by 24: the windows are within two spacious niches, formerly used as private oratories. Many good family portraits are dispersed about the castle. A state bed is here shewn, with a date 1530, the pillars of the Corinthian order of ebony gilt.

Leland mentions several parks and chaces; but all except *Michael-wood chace* and *Whitley park*, have received a better destination, by being converted into farms. The latter is near the castle, abounds with good timber, and is enclosed with a wall seven miles round. The fishery of

the Severn, to a great extent, is enjoyed among the manorial rights, but there are some exceptions of individual privilege.

TYTHINGS and HAMLETS.—1. The BOROUGH, in which are various properties belonging to the families of Hicks, Jenner, Joyner, &c.

2. ALKINGTON, in which *Newport* is included. Some part belongs to the manor; the rest is vested in the names of Hicks, Cornock, &c.

3. BREADSTONE, the property of which is divided among R. Nelmes, Esq. W. Adey, Esq. Jas. Croome, Gent. &c.

4. HAM. In this tything the families of Jenner, Jenkins, and Gee, are among the principal proprietors, but the greatest part is attached to the manor.

5. HAMFALLOW. Lord Berkeley is the principal proprietor here. Other proprietors are, Miss Fust, Sir Samuel Wathen, Knt. W. Joyner, gent. &c.

Wanswell Court is an old building; and that part which has Gothic windows was probably built in the 14th century; the other part about the time of Elizabeth, or James the First. The hall, which occupies the centre of the building, quite to the roof, is lofty and spacious, and has a curious Gothic chimney-piece. A moat still surrounds the house, full of water; and the remains of two drawbridges may be traced. In the reign of Edw. I. the manor belonged to Robert de Stone: by a marriage with his grand-daughter, in the reign of Edw. III. it passed to John Swonhonger. In the beginning of the reign of Rich. II. John Thorpe, a burgess of Bristol, was possessed of it, by marriage with Isabella, daughter of Swonhonger. In 1672 it was purchased of this family by D. Lysons, Esq.

(240), whose great-grandson, D. Lysons, M. D. held it to his death, in 1800, when it came to his brother, the Rev. S. Lysons, the present lord of the manor(171). It is said, that the tenure of the manor of Wanswell is by military service in a tower in the castle, called *Thorpe's Tower*, but this is disputed.

6. HINTON. More than half the property here is annexed to the manor. An estate, late Weston's, is vested in I. H. Hicks, M. D. by marriage with the heiress of that family.

7. STONE, was originally a hamlet, but is now in many respects a distinct parish (265).

These tythings and hamlets have all distinct officers, and maintain their respective poor.

At Purton the present Earl has made a large decoy-pool, the only one in this county⁵⁹

Iron ore abounds within the limits of this parish; and it appears from the quantity of cinders to be found, particularly about Peddington, that blomaries were formerly worked here.

An old religious house existed here long before the conquest, which might have been the family "*at Berclea*," mentioned in the acts of a synod at Clovesho, A. D. 824. But it is more doubtful, whether it consisted of monks or nuns, who were suppressed by the villainy of Earl Godwin, in the time of Edward the Confessor, as related by Camden.

The hospital of St. James and John is also mentioned, cart 12, Hen. III. m. 4, wherein is a confirmation of several parcels of land with which it was endowed.

A priory or hospital was also founded in Longbridge, in the tything of Ham, by Maurice Lord Berkeley in Hen. II. and dedicated to the Holy Trinity. The estate

with which it was endowed is now a parcel of the impropriation.

One hundred and eleven freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 2500—1854—3090. Houses inhab. 498.

The benefice is a vicarage in Dursley deanery, of which the Earl of Berkeley is patron, and Caleb Carrington, clk. is incumbent.

The patronage of the church was granted by Hen. VIII. to the chapter of Bristol, and was alienated by them, under the powers of an act of Parliament, to George, first Earl of Berkeley, in exchange for the rectory of St. Michael's, in Sutton Bennington, co. Nott. but the impropriate tythes were retained, and are now in lease to Edward Lloyd, Esq.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, consists of a nave, two aisles and a chancel, all of considerable dimensions. The original church was probably built by Robert Fitzharding about 1120, but it has been much altered from its ancient form by frequent reparations, and particularly those of 1732, when it was newly pewed. The west window and door seem to be the principal unaltered parts of the first building, and are very elegant examples of the architecture of that age.

The tower is at some distance from the church. It was erected about forty years since, on the same spot where the old tower stood. On the base of the windows of the south aisle are three cumbent figures, with a lamb couchant at the feet of each; these are not more than a yard long. Whether they are meant for any children of the family who died in their infancy, or three nuns belonging to the foundation which once existed here, is not ascertained. To the chancel, on the south side, is joined the sacellum or burial chapel, erected by James, Lord Berkeley, 1450.

In P. N. taxation the church of Berkleye, that is, the rectory, 24*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* In the King's books, 32*l.* 15*s.* 7½*d.*

CCLII. BEVERSTONE, *anciently* BEURESTAN,

Is twenty miles s. from Gloucester, and contains 2300 acres of light stony soil, three fourths of which are in tillage.

The manor, containing ten hides, was anciently a parcel of the great manor of Berkeley, and at the time of the general survey was holden of it. Hen. II. gave it to Robert Fitzharding, ancestor of the Berkeley family, who settled it on Robert his son, on his marriage with Alice, the daughter and heiress of Robert de Gaunt. Maurice de Gaunt, taking his mother's name, succeeded him, and dying without issue, his sister Eva, by marriage with Anselm de Gourney, carried the Beverstone property into that family, 1230. Robert, their son, the founder of Gaunt's hospital, in Bristol, was succeeded by his son Anselm, 1269, who left the manor to his son John, 1286, whose only daughter and heiress Elizabeth, by marriage carried it to John Ap Adam 1287. From their son Thomas the manor passed by purchase to Thomas Lord Berkeley, 1331, in which family it continued till the reign of Elizabeth, when Sir John Berkeley alienated the manor to Sir John Poyntz, from whom it soon passed to Henry Fleetwood, Esq. and from him after 1608, to Sir Michael Hicks; from him to Sir Henry, whose younger son, Michael Hicks, Esq. dying without issue in 1764, left the Beverstone manor and estate to Michael, son of Sir Howe Hicks, Bart. of Witcomb, then an infant, who is now lord of the manor, and proprietor of the whole parish (122).

BEVERSTON CASTLE,

Is of uncertain foundation, but undoubtedly prior to the conquest. Earls Godwin, Swane, and Harald met at this place, under the pretence of assisting Edward the Confessor against the Welsh, about 1048. Maurice, Lord Berkeley, or de Gaunt, fortified and repaired it, and was prosecuted by the King for doing so without royal permission, in 1227. It then became a military fortress, and was probably much dilapidated during the Barons' wars; for when purchased by Thomas Lord Berkeley, it was so much beautified and enlarged by the spoils and ransoms of the prisoners he took at Poitiers, in the reign of Edw. III. as to be almost a new structure. Soon after this period it was used only for a mansion-house, till the great rebellion, when it was held for the King and besieged by Col. Massie, to whom it was surrendered by the Lieutenant then in command, at the first summons. Soon after the siege the castle was destroyed by fire, and a large dwelling-house that was built within its walls was burnt down about a century ago. The present is a farm house.

The castle was originally a square building, moated round on all sides, with a tower at every corner, one only is now standing. The chapel still remains, and has a beautiful arched roof, a gothic window, and on the right side of the altar a shrine of two compartments of tabernacle work, with a lavatory, a closet in which is a confessional, and over it a prison, the floor of which was once covered with lead, as appears from some now inserted on the walls. In the uppermost story is an aperture of about two yards square, through which the prisoner was let down into the dungeon, which is only 9 feet square, and

has only one entrance by a dark passage, excavated thro' the wall.

The windows and chimney-pieces were altered to the style of the 16th century, when it became a private house.

The outer gate stood over the moat, which was 200 yards in circumference, and the ruins are still remaining.

It is impossible to traverse these remains without shuddering at the unfeeling cruelty and unrestrained ferocity of ancient Barons, and reflecting with sensations of gratitude on the improved state of society and manners, by which the inferior ranks are protected from oppression, and the superior indisposed, if it were in their power, to renew the tyranny of feudal times.

The barn mentioned in Big. Col. is in the parish of Rodmarton.

Two freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 164—144—142. Houses inhabited, 30.

The benefice is a rectory in Dursley deanery, with the chapel of Kingscote annexed, in the patronage of the King, and Thomas Pettat, A. M. is incumbent. The impropriation and advowson anciently belonged to the monastery of Bristol, but at the suppression the advowson was retained by the crown, and the benefice endowed with the tythes. One hundred and eight acres of arable in Beverstone, thirty-two in Kingscote, and thirty-five acres inclosed in both parishes belong to the rectory.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, consists of a nave, one narrow aisle, with a smaller one belonging to the lord of the manor, and an embatteled tower, with pinnacles.

In P. N. tax. the church of Beverston, 10/.

In the King's books, 30/.

CCLIII. CAM,

Is one mile w. from Dursley, and fourteen s. w. from Gloucester, and contains 3000 acres, the chief part of which is in pasture, with fruitful and extensive orchards, and 280 acres of commonable lands.

The village is divided into Upper and Lower Cam, which are separated by a rivulet which rises at Owlpen, passes by Dursley, gives name to this parish and to Cambridge, and falls into the Severn at Frampton Pill. It is called Cam, from its winding course; that word in British signifying crooked.

The lower classes here and in the neighbouring parishes are generally employed in the different branches of the clothing business.

Cam was a member of the great lordship of Berkeley, and included in the original grant from Hen. II. to Robert Fitzharding, in whose noble descendants it has been vested ever since, with a very considerable property.

Down-house, with a competent estate, is vested in Thos. Morse, Esq. of Dursley.

Clinger-house and estate is the property of Dan. Weight, Esq.

Other proprietors are, J. D. Matthews, Esq. (255) John Wallington, Esq. (264) J. Blagden Hale, Esq. (273) John Tyler, Esq. Mrs. Purnell (256), &c.

Lorence-farm was anciently a member of this parish, and is still rated in the same assessment of land-tax: but in parochial rates it is joined with Leonard's Stanley. This estate was given in the reign of Hen. III. by Thomas Lord Berkeley to the priory of Leonard's Stanley, of which the abbot of Gloucester had the patronage. The monks of the last abbey procured it to be considered as a part of

Leonard Stanley parish, and it has so continued ever since, though separated from it by the intervening parishes of Coaley and Frocester.

UPPER CAM contains Upthorp, Ashmeads, and Hockerhill. LOWER CAM contains Tilsdown, Clinger, and Bower Lye.

Longdowne and *Pikedowne* are two eminences on the eastern side of the parish. The former is a long plain or down running nearly north and south, and terminating abruptly on the north, but on the south separated by a hollow road from Pikedown or Camley, as it is sometimes called, which swells out of the vale in a conical form, terminating in a point. No vestiges of encampment appear upon it.

Twenty-eight freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 800—1070—1285. Houses inhabited, 247.

The benefice is a vicarage or rather curacy, endowed in Dursley deanery. The great tythes were appropriated to the abbey of Gloucester in 1361, and were continued to it after the dissolution. The Estcourt family have been lessees of the impropriation for many years. The curate receives 60*l.* per annum from the lessee, which was so settled by Bishop Goodman, in 1660. The Bishop of Gloucester is patron, and William Fryer, clerk, incumbent. The present lessee is Edmund Estcourt, Esq. of Lincoln's Inn (169).

The church, dedicated to St. George, consists of the nave and an aisle on each side, with a lofty and light tower, embattled and pinnacled at the west end. The effigy of the saint, carved in wood, stood in the porch of the church, and was taken from thence by a clothier, and removed to Colnbrook, in the reign of Hen. VI. whence the inn there received its name.—(*Atkyns*).

The church, in some records of the reigns of Hen. IV. and V. is called the Blessed St. Mary.

CCLIV. COALEY, COWLEY, *anciently COVELEGE,*

Is a parish three miles N. from Dursley, and twelve s. from Gloucester. It contains 2280 acres of a deep clayey soil, the greater part of which is pasture, and very fertile.

The manor of Covelege belonged to the Honour of Berkeley, and has been constantly appendant to the proprietors of Berkeley castle down to the present time; nearly two thirds of the parish belong to the Earl of Berkeley.

J. D. Matthews, Esq. is proprietor of a considerable estate (255).

Eleven freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 500—598—800. Houses inhabited, 148.

The benefice is a vicarage in Dursley deanery; the King is patron, and Meredith Jones, clerk, incumbent.

The impropriation was given by Roger de Berkeley, to the abbey of Gloucester, and continued in it till the dissolution, when it was granted to Sir Anthony Kingston, and after to Morris and Phillips, from whom it came to the Brownings, and of them was purchased by John Minett, by whose family it was sold to the Rev. John Golightly, M. A. the present impropriator.

The church, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, consists of a nave and north aisle, with a tower at the west end, embattled and pinnaced, with handsome fret-work, probably the work of the convent of Gloucester.

Two escutcheons are on either side the door case; upon one the gothic D inclosing A, on the other a chevron defaced, part of the arms of Berkeley.

In P. N. tax. the church of Covele, 9*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

In the Kings books (discharged) 8*l.* 2*s.* 3½*d.*

CCLV. CROMHALL, *anciently* CROMHAL,

Is seven miles s. from Berkeley, and twenty-three from Gloucester, and contains 3000 acres of light soil on a bed of excellent lime stone, on the higher grounds, and a deep soil in the lower. The former is principally in tillage, and the latter in pasture, beside extensive woodlands in the park, and a considerable portion in orcharding.

Before and after the conquest, Cromhall was a member of the great lordship of Berkeley. In 1148 Robert Lord Berkeley gave one part of it, which has since been called Cromhall Abbots, to the monks of St. Augustine, in Bristol. They had free warren and a court leet in it, 1287, and continued in possession of this manor till the dissolution, when it was granted to the new see of Bristol, and still continues with it, but is in lease to Lord Ducie.

CROMHALL LYGON, so called from the proprietor of it in the reign of Eliz. belonged to Sir John Berkeley in 1428, from whose family it went by purchase to the Ligon, of whose descendant, Richard Ligon, it was purchased by Sir Thomas Throckmorton, Bart.; his son, Sir William, sold it to Sir Horatio Veele, lord of Tylbury in the reign of James I. who resold it to Sir Robert Ducie, alderman of London, from whom it has descended to the present noble proprietors (175).

The park is not entirely within this parish. It was enclosed by Sir William Ducie 1661, and is very well wooded, with an extensive piece of water in the middle. The vestiges of a perfect encampment still remain. The discovery of a tessellated pavement, proves that the Ro-

mans were once stationed there, but can hardly be allowed as proof that the Iter Antonini led through or near this place from Bath.

A retired spot, called *Anchorites' hill*, supports the traditionary account of a hermit of the early ages having had a cell here; something like the ruins of which are now to be seen.

Cromhall heath is a large uninclosed tract of land, to which this parish and Wickwar claim a right of common.

Woodend house, is a handsome modern mansion, built by Daniel Matthews, Esq. about 1770. He was succeeded in this and other considerable estates by his son Joseph Daniel Matthews, Esq. who sold the house and some lands belonging to it, to Lord Ducie, the present proprietor⁶⁰.

Bibstone house is the property and present residence of Joseph D. Matthews, Esq.

Heathend house, with the estates, were for many years the property of the family of Robins, and was sold by one of his descendants to Mr. James Rudge, some time after whose death they were transferred to Thomas Webb, Esq. He died early in 1803, and the house is now the residence of his sister, Mrs. Dyer.

Mr. Thomas Hickes was proprietor of a good house, called *Court-house*, and estate, near the church, in the beginning of last century, descended from an ancient family, of which, Sir Baptist Hickes, Lord Campden, and Sir William Hickes, of Beverston, were branches. He died in 1726, and by the death of two brothers, Mary, the surviving daughter, became heiress. She died in 1783, when the property came to Thomas Webb, Esq. and on his death to the family of Dyer.

The higher parts of this parish are on a limestone rock; which diverges from this point as from a centre, to the

south-east, as far as Sodbury, and to the south-west terminated by Aust Cliff. The lime made from it is peculiarly good and white, and in the interstices at various places, are veins of lead ore, and Sulphate of Strontian (310) (315) (287). The lower parts, and the whole district south of it, extending beyond Bristol, abound with coal (315) (296) &c. In this parish some mines were sunk at the expence of the late Lord Ducie, but soon discontinued on account of the frequently intervening strata of earth. The steam engine is now neglected and nearly in ruins.

About the beginning of last century, there was in the park a large plantation of vines, which is said to have produced ten hogsheads of good wine in one year⁶¹.

Twenty-one freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 360—316—550. Houses inhabited, 115.

The benefice is a rectory, in Hawkesbury deanery, in the patronage of Oriel College, Oxford. Robert Penny, D. D. incumbent.

The advowson was annexed to the manor for many generations, till Matthew, the first Lord Ducie, sold it to the present patrons in 1728.

The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, consists of a nave and south aisle, with a low embattled tower on the north side, apparently of a more modern date than the other parts of the building. The effigies of a man cross legged, mentioned by Atkyns, and supposed to be one of the Lignons, was either built up in the wall, or hid from sight by the pews, when some reparations were made in the church in 1775.

In P. N. tax. the church of Cromhale, 7*l*.

In the Kings books, 16*l*. 19*s*. 2*d*.

CCLVI. DURSLEY, *anciently* DERSILEGE,

Is a parish and market town, fifteen miles s. of Gloucester. It is in compass eight miles, of a soil light and gravelly, mostly in pasture, with 2000 acres of woodland.

Under the ancient constitution of the borough, there was a chief officer, called *Præpositus*, who now receives the name of bailiff. His office was formerly to collect the King's rents, and now it is, to examine into weights and measures, nor does it appear that his authority extends farther. The first *præpositus*, in 1567, was James Smallwood, and the present is Isaac Danford, Gent. The market-house stands in the middle of the town; it was built of freestone about the year 1738, and has the statue of Queen Anne at the east end, and the arms of the lord of the manor in the front, who was at the sole expence of it. Thursday is the market-day, and the annual fairs are on the 6th of May, and 4th of December. The town itself is situated at the base of a steep hill, irregularly built, and not of great extent. Some of the houses are handsome and respectable, and others bear the characters of great antiquity, particularly one, which possibly might have belonged to the Webbs, *alias* Woolworth, or Wekys; one of the chambers is lined with oak wainscot, the arched roof framed with timber, and the beams highly carved and ornamented with a cypher, E. W. 1539. In Dr. Parson's MSS. it is said that the first charter for markets and fairs was granted in 1471, by Ed. IV. at the petition of William Lord Berkeley, and renewed in 1612, on the petition of Sir Thomas Estcourt, Knt.

On the s. e. side of the church-yard, some springs rise out of the ground, like boiling water, in so copious a manner, as to drive a fulling mill at about a hundred yards dis-

tance below, and are never known to diminish in quantity. At their rise, they cover a fine level gravelly bottom, for about fifteen feet square, with nearly two feet of water, wherefore the inhabitants call it *Broad Well*; but farther back than the time of Hen. III. it was called *Ewelme*. This is a Saxon word, signifying the head of a spring; and it is conjectured that this remarkable water gave name to the town; for in British, *dwr* is water, and *ley*, *lege*, *lega*, are common terminations for pasture ground, particularly in elevated situations. In any way, this remarkable spring seems to have suggested the first idea of the name.

There is a stone found here of a peculiar nature, called, by Leland, *toſe* stone, and by moderns, *puff* stone, or *tophus*. It lies in one entire bed or stratum, on which the workshops of Mr. Phelps are now built, and is so soft, as to be cut into pieces or blocks of any size or shape; but when it has been exposed some time in the sun and air, assumes an uncommon degree of hardness and durability. The walls of Berkeley castle, and in part the churches of Dursley and Cam, were built with this stone, and are sufficient proofs of its power to resist the usual effects of weather and age. The extreme lightness of it renders it highly useful in the construction of vaulted ceilings, to set between the ribs of springing arches. The high choir vault of Gloucester cathedral is said to be a fine specimen of it.

On the top of the hill, near Nibley-park, is a place called the *Hermitage*, bleak and dreary, where, it is said, an anchorite thought proper to spend his days. The last mention of *Heremite*, or *Hermitage*, is in the court roll of Ham, in 8 Hen. VIII.

In this and the adjacent parishes, the following fossils are to be found. Nautili, ammonoidæ, cochleæ, and be-

lemnites. Likewise ostracites, mytili, and pinnæ marinæ; besides *asteria columnaris*, found in some running streams, but not in abundance.

Dursley gives the title of Viscount to the Earls of Berkeley, and the eldest son is stiled Lord Dursley.

Edward Fox, well known in history for the active part he took in promoting the divorce of Hen. VIII. from Queen Catherine, was a native of this town⁶².

The ditch of the old castle is still to be seen in an orchard at the n. w. end of the town, which is called the Castle Orchard.

The Conqueror gave three hides in Dersilege, being a member of the honour of Berkeley, to Roger de Berkeley. In this name it continued till the reign of Richard II. About which time the manor passed, by the marriage of Maud, daughter and surviving heiress of John de Berkeley, to Robert de Cantelupe, and by marriage with their daughter to Richard Chedder, from which name also it was transferred by marriage with the heiress to Thomas Wike, or Wekys, who died seized 1474. His fifth descendant in lineal succession, Robert Wekys, sold the manor to Richard Bude and his heirs, from whom it soon passed to Edmond Woolworth, alias Webb, whose son William sold it to Thomas Estcourt, Esq. from whom it descended to Sir Thomas Estcourt, Knt. and on his death, in 1625, to Walter Estcourt, of Lasborough, Esq. who was succeeded by Thomas Estcourt, Esq. of Shipton Moigne. He dying unmarried, was succeeded by his brother, Edmond, of Burton-hill, near Malmsbury, co. Wilts, Esq. who dying without issue male, bequeathed his property to Thomas Estcourt, Esq. (second son of the late Matt. Estcourt, Esq. of Cam) who is the present lord of the manor, and resides at Estcourt-house, near Tetbury (172).

King's-hill-house is the property and residence of Mrs. Purnell, relict of Thomas Purnell Purnell, Esq. who died in December, 1801.

WOODMANCOTE is a tything and hamlet, adjoining to the borough, and an ancient manor, of which Otto was possessor at the general survey. It afterwards came into the Swyneburne family, from them to Thomas Lord Berkeley, and continued with his descendants till sold by John Berkeley to Richard Lambert, a merchant, of London, 1567. In 1670, it was transferred by purchase from William Luden and Elizabeth his wife, sister of Arthur Bronwick, Esq. to John Arundell. In 1762, it was sold by the co-heirs of John Arundell, Gent. to John de la Field Phelps, Esq. the father of John de la Field Phelps, Esq. the present lord of the manor.

The homage paid twice a year to the court at Berkeley, is a thong of blue leather, tagged with ten at each end.

The clothing manufacture is carried on here to a large extent, and with every advantage of modern machinery⁶⁸. The principal works belong to Messrs. John (264) and Edward Wallington, William Phelps, and Mr. Tippetts.

New Mills is a good house, belonging to William Purnell, Esq. (184).

Fifty-eight freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 2500—2000—2379. Houses inhabited, 460.

The benefice is a rectory, in the deanery to which it gives name, anciently charged with the payment of 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* to the priory of Stanley St. Leonard, and in the patronage of the abbot of Gloucester, who, in 1475, at the instance of John Carpenter, Bishop of Worcester, exchanged this rectory for the Archdeacon's house in Glou-

cester, to which dignity it was then appropriated, and has continued annexed ever since. James Webster, LL. B. is the present archdeacon and rector of Dursley. The church, dedicated to St. James, consists of a spacious nave, two aisles, a tower of modern Gothic, and a very handsome portal. The arms of Berkeley and Fitz Alan, and the device of Thomas Tanner, are carved on the timber frame roof. The latter erected a chapel at the south end of the aisle for chantry, and the figure of a skeleton beneath a canopy is intended as a memorial for him. The south aisle probably owed a great deal of its external embellishments to him, which is in the best stile of that period. The old spire fell in 1699, while the bells were ringing, and many lives were lost. It was re-built and finished in 1709, at the expence of 1000*l*. The chancel was also re-erected in 1738, and neatly fitted up. On the end of the nave is a saint's bell turret.

In P. N. taxation the church of Durselege is valued at 6*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*. In King's books, 10*l*. 14*s*. 6½*d*.

CCLVII. KINGSCOTE, *anciently* CHINGESCOTE,

Is distant five miles n. w. from Tetbury, and sixteen s. from Gloucester. It contains 1300 acres of a light stone-brash soil, chiefly in tillage and woodland. There are several deep valleys, whose acclivities are covered with beech, which grows with great luxuriance on this whole extensive range of hills. The termination of the name is evidently descriptive of its being overgrown with wood in ancient days.

This manor, at the time of the general survey, was a member of the lordship of Berkeley. It was given to Roger de Berkeley by the Conqueror, and afterwards taken

from another Roger of the same name, and given to Robert Fitzharding, who soon after gave it to Nigel de Kingescote, to be holden of him by half a knight's fee, on marriage with his daughter Aldena. They left two sons, Adam and Robert, the latter of whom, on failure of issue in the elder branch, succeeded to the estate. The manor was confirmed to his son Nigell by Robert Lord Berkeley, in the reign of Richard, who dying without issue, left Richard, his younger brother, his heir. He was succeeded by Nigell, who died 1319, and was father of William, father of Nicholas, father of William, father of John, who died in the life-time of his father, leaving his son William a minor, father of William, who died 1525, and was father of William, who died 1541, who was father of William, who died 1583, leaving Christopher his heir, who died in 1608, leaving his son Anthony, on whose death in 1654, Abraham his son succeeded, and in 1670 left William Kingescote, Esq. who died 1706. William his son died in 1731, and was succeeded by Nigell, on whose death without issue in 1773, this manor and family estates devolved to his nephew, Robert Kingescote, Esq. (son of Robert Fitzharding, K. brother of the said Nigell,) who is now lord of the manor, and twenty-first possessor from the original grantee, Nigel de Kingescote.

The ancient manor-house, which has been the residence of the family nearly 700 years, has been much modernized and improved.

PLACES.—1. *Binley*. 2. *Hazlecote*. 3. *Smith's Shop*, or Hunter's Hall, which is a commodious inn on the turnpike-road from Gloucester to Bath.

This place was probably the scene of military transactions. Some discoveries of coins, fragments of tessellated pavement, and other antiquities are said to have been dis-

covered in a field called the Chestles, but tradition gives no account of any place where they were deposited.

In this neighbourhood are quarries of stone full of petrifications, and when polished, not unlike the Derbyshire marble.

Two freeholders voted in 1776.

Population 180—134—171. Houses inhabited, 47.

The living is a portion of Beverstone rectory, to which it is annexed as a chapel, but exercising all the rights which belong to a parish.

The chapel is a small building, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, having a nave only, and a low embattelled tower.

The cenotaph of the Kingscote family is a triangular pyramidal structure, on the bases of which are three marble tables, with monumental inscriptions.

CCLVIII. NEWINGTON BAGPATH, *anciently*

NEWENTON,

Is a small parish, four miles east from Wotton-under-Edge, and seventeen south from Gloucester. The soil is stone-brash, and extends over 1600 acres, applied nearly in equal proportions to arable and pasture.

Atkyns is probably mistaken in his assertion, that this manor was held of the honour of Hereford, as it was a member of the Lordship of Berkeley before the conquest, and has continued to be so ever since. Soon after the reign of Rich. II. it passed from the Berkeleys, as immediate possessors, to the Wekys, descended from an heiress of that family (256). Robert Wekys, a descendant, sold it in the reign of Elizabeth, probably to Sir Thomas Low, as he was lord of the manor in 1608. Edward Webb,

Esq. was lord of it at the beginning of last century, from whom it passed, by purchase, to Nigel Kingscote, Esq. whose nephew, Robert Kingscote, Esq. is the present proprietor (257).

BAGPATH is a hamlet, lying half a mile from the church. It was in the family of Pointz for several generations, and was sold by Nicholas Pointz. Edward Webb, Esq. was lord of it at the beginning of the last century, and it is now vested in Robert Kingscote, Esq.

Calcot, or *Caldecot*, is a farm, formerly the demesnes of the abbey of Kingswood. This likewise was a part of the property belonging to the Pointz family, from whom it passed to the Estcourts; and Edmund Estcourt, Esq. is now lord of the manor (169).

Lurgesall, formerly belonging to the abbey of Gloucester, and granted first to Sir Walter Raleigh, and in 1606 to Peter Vanlore, merchant, and William Blake, scrivener, is now vested in the Corporation of Gloucester.

Edw. Sheppard, Esq. of Uley, is the present lessee, by assignment from — Mawle.

Five freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 220—354—217. Houses inhabited, 36.

The benefice is a rectory in Dursley deanery, the patronage of which was in the abbey of Gloucester in 1512, and is now, by purchase, in — Taylor, Esq. of Wotton-under-Edge. Thomas Hickes, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, consists of a nave only, and a low tower at the west end.

In P. N. tax the church of Newenton 8/. In King's books, 14/.

CCLIX. NIMPSFIELD, *anciently* NIMDESFELLE,

Is four miles N. E. from Dursley, fourteen s. from Gloucester, and contains about 1130 acres. The soil is a light stone-brash, about half in tillage, with some woodland.

The turnpike road from Bath to Gloucester leads down Nimpsfield hill, which is remarkably steep. The famous Col. Massie, who had been disgusted by the conduct of the republicans in the great rebellion, and deserted the cause, after having been taken prisoner by a party sent on purpose, and placed on horseback behind a trooper, contrived in coming down this hill, to tumble himself and guard off the horse, and by this means made his escape.

The manor is a member of the Lordship of Berkeley. Robert Fitzharding gave this to his youngest son, who afterwards took the name of Fitz-Nicholls. Sir Thomas Fitznicholls died in 1419, leaving two daughters; Catherine, married to Robert Pointz, Esq. and Eleanor to John Browning, Esq. whose moiety was soon after conveyed to Robert Pointz. It came afterwards into the family of Tame (125). On the death of Edmond, without issue, the family estates came to his three sisters, co-heiresses; and in the partition, this was settled on Sir Thos. Verney, who had married Alice, the second, whose great grandson, Sir Richard, was lord of the manor in 1608. The Bridgmans were soon after possessed of it, and John Bridgman, of Prinknash, was lord at the beginning of last century. From this family it was transferred to the noble family of Ducie; and Francis Reynolds Morton, Lord Ducie, is now lord of the manor (282), with the greatest part of the parish.

HAMLETS.—KYNLEY. or KINLINE. The manor anciently belonged to the warden and bretheren of a priory

established here, which was seized by William I. and restored by Will. II. 1099. It was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and became in a short time a college or free chapel of secular priests. Here was also a chantry chapel, dedicated to St. Anthony, whose figure was painted at the east end, with a boar by his side. After the general suppression the manor of Kynley was granted to William Stump, whose son, Sir James, had livery 1554.

The priory, though converted to a dwelling-house, is still chargeable with tenths. The chantry lands were for a long time the subject of dispute between Thos. Throckmorton, of Tortworth, and Sir Henry Winston, of Standish, but now are vested in Lord Ducie.

Tinkley is another hamlet, consisting of two farms. Some property in this parish belongs to the family of Estcourt.

Six freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 250—497—523. Houses inhabited, 93.

The benefice is a rectory in Stonehouse deanery, in the patronage of the King, and George Hayward, the younger, A. M. is the present incumbent. The inhabitants baptized and buried at Frocester, which was the mother church in 1185. The chapel of Nympsfield and the advowson of Frocester were given to the abbey of Gloucester by William de Blois, Bishop of Worcester, in 1225.

The church, dedicated to St. Margaret, consists of a nave, with a handsome embattled and pinnacled tower at the west end.

In P. N. tax. the church of Nymedesfeld, 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

In the King's books (discharged) 11*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.*

CCLX. NORTH NIBLEY,

Is two miles N. W. from Wotton-under-edge, and eighteen S. from Gloucester, situated partly on the hill and partly in the vale, and the soil, extending over 3000 acres, varies accordingly. On the former the land is light and strong, and chiefly in tillage, but in the latter are found very rich pasture and dairy farms, on which cheese of prime quality is made. The acclivities are covered with beech, but in the lowlands the elm and the oak thrive with luxuriance. Some parts of this parish lie three miles from the church. The prefix of *North* is used to distinguish it from a hamlet of the same name in the parish of Westerleigh (296).

Domesday takes no notice of this place, and it was probably included in the accounts of the manors of Wotton and Dursley. Part of the parish is now within the manor of Woodmancote, in the parish of Dursley. Robert Fitzharding received this manor from Hen. II. and the noble family of which he was the ancestor have retained it ever since, excepting an interruption of 192 years, during which it was in litigation, and violently detained by Lord Lisle. It was determined in 1610 in favour of the noble family of Berkeley, who still continue lords of the manor. During the pendency of the suit Thomas Talbot, Viscount Lisle, sent a challenge to William, sixth Lord Berkeley, to decide the quarrel by the sword. Nibley Green was the place appointed, where, on the 20th of March, 1470, both parties met, with their respective followers to the amount of nearly 1000, of whom 150 fell, and amongst them Lord Lisle, who was shot in the mouth with an arrow by one James Hiatte of the Forest of Dean. The victory was thus decided, and Lord Berkeley hastened

immediately to Wotton, the residence of Lisle, and seized all the papers and writings, some relating to Lord Lisle's own estate, which are still preserved in Berkeley castle. Lady Lisle, who was then pregnant with her first child, miscarried through the fright.

Some lands in this parish anciently belonged to the religious houses of Lanthony and Kingswood, and the Knights Hospitallers of Jerusalem.

George Smyth, Esq. father of Nicholas Smyth, Esq. built a very good house in 1763, upon the scite of an old mansion, which had long been in the family. It has lately been sold, with a considerable estate, to John Jortin, Esq. of Bloomsbury-square, London.

John Smyth, of Nibley, ancestor of the family, made very accurate collections relating to the history of this county, and committed to writing a very minute account of the customs of the several manors within the hundred of Berkeley, and the pedigrees of their respective lords, which cost him the labour of forty years' compilation.

HAMLETS and PLACES.—1. **CHURCHEND**, in which is situate the mansion house; which, with 2. **GREAT and LITTLE GREEN**; and 3. **SOUTHEND**, are the property of John Jortin, Esq.

4. **MILL-END**; with 5. **SMART'S GREEN**; 6. **WOODERLEN, or WOODLANE'S-END**; and 7. **WATERLEIGH**, are the property of the Earl of Berkeley.

8. **SWINNY**, belongs to Mr. Clere.

9. **WHOREND**. The principal estate is vested in William Purnell, Esq. by purchase (256). It was a parcel of the great estate, late Smyth's.

10. **FORTOY**. The principal estate here belongs to Thomas Robinson, Gent.

11. **REDEMISSE**, is chiefly in wood.

12. ISLE OF RHEA, is the property of Mr. Cornelius Harris.

Thirty-one freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 1000—1700—1211. Houses inhab. 225.

The benefice is a curacy in Dursley deanery, endowed with 20*l.* a year from the impropriation, and twice augmented. It was formerly a chapel to Wotton-under-edge, and belonged to the abbey of Tewkesbury. The patronage and impropriation belong to Christ Church Coll. Oxford, and John Jortin, Esq. is lessee. Thomas Jones, clerk, is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Martin, consists of a nave and south isle, with a low embattled tower at the west end, and a small turret for a Saint's bell at the junction of the nave and chancel.

CCLXI. OLEPEN, OLDPEN, *anciently* OLEPENNE,

Is a small parish, three miles E. from Dursley, and fifteen s. from Gloucester. The soil is in general strong, adapted to pasture, and full of springs. It contains about 1100 acres.

The name seems to be made up of *ole*, or *ulle*, corrupted from *uley*, and *pen*, which signifies the *head* or *top* of any thing; that is, the *top* of *uley*, which is exactly descriptive of its situation. This is more probable than that the parish received its name from the proprietor, as Sir Robert supposes.

The place does not occur in ancient records till 1311, when John de Olepenne, is mentioned in the Escheator's Inquisition, as having granted one messuage and a half to Edmond Basset, and again in 1325, the same person oc-

ours as a benefactor to St. Bartholomew's hospital in Gloucester, and a Bartholomew de Olepenne as a benefactor to the abbey of Gloucester. These were, at that time, lords of the manor, and their descendants continued so till it passed by marriage with the heiress of Robert Olepenne into the family of Daunt. He died 1522, and Thomas Daunt, Esq. was lord of the manor in 1608, and another of the same name in 1712. Thomas Daunt, Esq. is also the present proprietor of nearly all the parish.

This ancient family trace their pedigree as far back as the reign of Hen. VI. in an uninterrupted line.

The mansion-house adjoins the chapel-yard, and is built in the style of Eliz. with pointed pediments, and the windows projecting, and finished at top with battlements.

The mayor and corporation of Gloucester, as trustees for St. Bartholomew's hospital, are possessed of the estate called *Schescombe*, which was given by Henry de Olepenne to the brethren of the said hospital, in the reign of Hen. III.

Two freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 140—196—188. Houses, 35.

The benefice is a chapel annexed to Newington Bag-path.

The chapel is very small, and has a low wooden turret at the west end.

CCLXII. OZLEWORTH, *anciently* OSLEUORDE,

Is a small parish, generally called Ozerley, two miles east from Wotton-under-edge, and eighteen south from Gloucester. It is situated on the verge of the hill district, chiefly in tillage, and environed with woods. It contains 1100 acres, of which half is in pasture.

Word, or *Worth*, as was before observed (225), implies the mansion or estate of some early Saxon proprietor.

This place was a *berewick* or member of the Lordship of Berkeley, at the time of the general survey. The manor was afterwards granted by the Berkeley family to the abbey at Bristol; but in 1411, it had been granted again to the abbey of Kingswood, which was possessed of it till the dissolution. The family of Pointz had before been mesne lords under the last-mentioned abbey, and obtained the grant of it from Hen. VIII. Nicholas Pointz sold it about the beginning of the reign of Eliz. to Sir Thomas Rivet, alderman of London, of whom it was purchased by Sir Gabriel Lowe, an alderman also of the same city. It continued in the Lowes till the middle of the last century, when it was purchased by James Clutterbuck, Esq. who died in 1776; and Lewis Clutterbuck, clerk, is lord of the manor, and proprietor of more than half of the parish.

In P. N. tax. “*Abbas de Kyngeswood, habet apud Grang. quæ vocat. Ozleworth, septem-caruc. terr. et valet caruc. duodecim solid.*”

Newark-house was originally built by Sir Nicholas Pointz, out of the ruins of Kingswood abbey, but has been considerably improved by its successive proprietors, and is now the family residence of the Clutterbucks.

George Millar, Esq. has a good house, near the church, very finely situated, with a park, and considerable estate.

Nash Croft is the property of the heirs of the late T. Chandler, Gent.

Five freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 70—80—133. Houses inhabited, 22.

The benefice is a rectory in Dursley deanery, in the patronage of the lord of the manor, and Lewis Clutter-

buck, M. A. is patron and incumbent. The advowson of this church was anciently given by Roger Lord Berkeley to the priory of Stanley St. Leonard; and when that became a cell to the abbey of Gloucester, the advowson came to the same abbey.

The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, consists of a nave and chancel. In the centre rises an octagon tower, (with small Saxon windows, divided into two compartments,) terminating in a pointed roof. The west side of the tower rests on a very singular Saxon arch, with chevron mouldings. The whole bears the marks of great antiquity, and may be ranked among the earliest specimens of church architecture in the county.

In P. N. tax. the portion of the priory of Stanley in the church of Osleworth, 6s. 8d.

In King's books (discharged) 6l. 10s. 5d.

CCLXIII. SLIMBRIDGE, *anciently* HISLINBRUGE,

Is a parish containing 4000 acres, five miles from Berkeley, and eleven s. from Gloucester. It is bounded N. W. by the Severn, and consists of good pasture and meadow land, with some arable. A thousand acres, which are called the *Dumballs*, or more usually the *New Grounds*, were gained from the Severn some ages since, and were added to the Berkeley estates, on the plea that the Earl's manor extended to the middle of the river. To break the violence of the waves, and preserve the land from being washed away by floods and high tides, one of the Earls built a wall of large stones, firmly cramped together, and projecting a hundred yards into the river, in the parish of Frethern (176); yet strong as it appears to be, it has not been able altogether to withstand the amazing pressure of

the water when the spring tides run in, but is in many places ruinous. It is called the Hock Crib.

Slimbridge Wharfe, or *Warthe*, is a piece of rich pasture ground, lately inclosed, adjoining to the river, affording excellent food for sheep, but subject to the inundation of the tides, and now again wearing away with rapidity.

Slimbridge was, at the time of the survey, a member of the manor of Berkeley. It continued with the Berkeleys till, by marriage with Elizabeth, the only child of Thomas Lord Berkeley, it passed to Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who died possessed of it 17 Hen. VI. His daughter, Margaret, Countess of Shrewsbury, died seized of this, and some other estates in the neighbourhood, 7 Edw. IV. By a fine levied of this manor, with others, to the use of Hen. VII. it came to the crown, and so continued till the death of Edward VI. when they reverted to Henry Lord Berkeley, the fifth in lineal descent from Maurice, brother to William Lord Berkeley, who had livery granted him 1 Mary; and from him the manor of Slimbridge descended to the present Earl of Berkeley (251).

Most of the estates in this parish belong to the Earl, either directly in possession or in lease.

CAMBRIDGE is a hamlet in this parish, and receives its name from its situation on the Cam, which falls a little below into the Severn⁶⁴.

Roll's-court is an estate held by lease under the Earl of Berkeley, late the property of Mrs. Davies, now of the Rev. Mr. Davies, of Eastington.

Gossington-hall belonged to Capt. Jones, was sold by his co-heiresses to Mr. Pick, and from him passed, by purchase, to W. Cornock, Gent.

Hurst, Sages, Churchend, Moorend, Kingston, are names of places and farms.

Thirty-six freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 560—800—770. Houses inhabited, 117.

The church, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, is neat and well pewed, consisting of a nave and two side aisles, with a gallery, and a lofty well-proportioned spire at the west end. The Berkeley arms are painted in the window of the chancel and south aisle. The patronage of this church was originally in the Berkeley family, and was granted to the priory of Stanley Saint Leonards. Thomas de Bredon, Abbot of Gloucester, released the advowson to Thomas Lord Berkeley, in consideration of lands, called Lorlyrge, or Lorraine, near Cam. It now belongs to Magdalen College, in Oxford, and the rector pays 10*l.* a year to the college, to support a peculiar custom of having choir music every year on the top of Magdalen tower. Three rectors have been removed from this parish to bishoprics. The last, Owen Oglethorpe, was made Bishop of Carlisle, by Queen Mary, and was the only one that could be prevailed upon to crown Queen Elizabeth, Jan. 15, 1559. Charles Walker, A. M. is incumbent.

In P. N. tax. the church of Slynibrugge, 28*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

In King's books, 28*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*

CCLXIV. STINCHCOMB,

Is a parish, two miles from Dursley, fifteen south from Gloucester, and contains 1208 acres, chiefly in pasture, with some tillage. It is said to have been formerly a part of Cam.

Stinchcomb is not mentioned in Domesday; the family of Braddeston were early proprietors, and continued so

till the reign of Hen. IV. Elizabeth, the heiress, carried it by marriage to Walter de la Pool, about 1434: and Sir Edward Ingoldsthorp was seized of this, and other estates, which had belonged to the Bradstones, 1457. It came afterwards to Lord Wentworth, who, in the reign of Elizabeth, sold it among several proprietors. Mr. John Hollister was lord of the manor in 1608, after whom it came to the family of Pinfold. John Pinfold, Esq. died in 1779, and left it to Edward Hoskins, Esq. from whom it passed, by purchase, with the mansion-house and a good estate, to John Wallington, Esq.

Peers Court, the residence of J. Wallington, Esq. is situated on a commanding spot, overlooking, on the west side, the fine rich vale of Berkeley, and the distant cliffs which overhang the Severn.

A good house and estate belong to John Mabbett, Gent. and a considerable estate to Thomas Morse, Esq.

STANCOMB is a hamlet, in which *Stancomb-house*, with a considerable estate, is the property of William Purnell, Esq. (256)

CLINGER, is partly in this parish (253).

Abundance of fossils of different kinds are found in the quarries in this neighbourhood.

Stinchcomb-hill shelters the village on the east: on the summit of it is an extensive plain, the scene of many rustic diversions. The prospects from this elevated spot are peculiarly beautiful, as far as bird's-eye views will admit. The extent of rich country which lies within its command is very great; and one of its principal beauties is the wide estuary of the Severn, which is here displayed in its grandest features.

Sixteen freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 500—450—419. Houses inhabited, 74.

The benefice is a perpetual curacy in Dursley deanery, augmented by a benefaction of Mr. Pinfold and Queen Anne's bounty. The impropriate tythes did belong to the Bishop of Gloucester, till they were sold under the late act for the redemption of the land-tax, to John Wallington, Esq. William Purnell, Esq. Tho. Morse, Esq. and John Mabbett, Gent. with a reservation of twenty pounds a year to the curate, and patronage to the bishop. Rev. William Fryer is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Cyril, consists of a nave and chancel, with a steeple of moderate height, resting on a tower battlemented and pinnacled. On the north side is a handsome porch, with ribbed vaulted cieling. On all the upper windows of the tower are the figures, '1632,' in open work, probably the date of its erection. The church is of an earlier period, about the latter end of the fourteenth century. No church was standing at the time of P. N. tax.

CCLXV. STONE,

Is a small parish eighteen miles s. from Gloucester, and sixteen n. from Bristol. It is in general considered only as a tything of Berkeley. The soil is nearly the same. The turnpike road from Gloucester to Bristol passes through it, crossing a large brook, which forms the Avon and joins the Severn below Berkeley. It contains about 300 acres.

The manor is not mentioned in Domesday, but unquestionably included in the lordship of Berkeley. Some persons occur in ancient records as possessors of the manor,

but they were probably mesne lords, or the manor soon reverted to the Berkeleys, and now belongs to the same noble family, with no property attached.

The principal estate belongs to the Rev. Stiverd Jenkins, who has a good house in the village. Considerable property is vested in the family of Cox.

In *Lower-stone*, John Hooper Bromedge, Esq. has an estate and house, in which he resides.

Seven freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 200—200—242. Houses inhabited, 39.

The benefice is a curacy in Dursley deanery, annexed to Berkeley, the vicar of which pays 8*l.* a year to the curate. Mr. Morse left 300*l.* to purchase lands, and directed that 10*l.* a year should be paid to the curate, on condition of his residing there. To this has been added Queen Anne's bounty.

The tythes of this place belonged to the priory of Bradenstoke, co. Wilts, and were granted to the chapter of Bristol. Edward Lloyd, Esq. is lessee.

The church, dedicated to All Saints, is a handsome building, consisting of a nave and tower, with a neat spire. The whole is adorned with battlements and pinnacles.

CCLXVI. ULEY, *anciently EUUELEGE,*

Is two miles N. E. from Dursley, and fourteen s. from Gloucester. The soil in the lower parts is deep and in pasture, with some orcharding, intermixed with arable and wood land. The name seems to owe its origin to the springy nature of the land, as the word, like *Dursley*, signifies a *watery place*.

The clothing manufacture flourishes here to a considerable extent, and the poorer classes are entirely employed in it. A fine stream runs through the village, most conveniently adapted and applied to the various machinery of modern introduction.

EUUELEGE was anciently a member of the great lordship of Berkeley. This estate was held by the elder branch of the family, till it was settled upon Maurice Berkeley, second son of Maurice Lord B. some time in the reign of Edw. III. This Maurice was the ancestor of the Stoke Giffard family, and his descendants held this manor without interruption till the reign of Richard III. when joining with the Duke of Buckingham against the King, he was forced to fly into Britaigne, and his estate given to Jasper, Duke of Bedford, uncle to Hen. VII. but in 1489, it was again re-granted to the family, and has descended to the present Earl of Berkeley.

Basset's-court, an ancient seat of the Basset's, is a reputed manor. It came into this family by marriage of Sir Anselm Basset, with Margaret, daughter of Thomas Lord Berkeley, and continued in their descendants till about the middle of last century, when it was parcelled out and sold to different proprietors. A small part only of the old manor is now remaining. The principal part belongs to G. Millar, Esq.(262)

The *White-Court* is another reputed manor, and is said formerly to have had two parks. The manor house has been demolished time immemorial, but the name is still retained, and the premises are covered with the buildings of various proprietors.

Stout's-hill, is an elegant building, ornamented in the Gothic style, situated on an eminence, with the village in

front. It was the property of Timothy Gyde, Esq. and was purchased by Lloyd Baker, Clerk, who resides in it.

Bencombe, is a good house with a considerable estate attached to it, the property of the same gentleman.

Thirty-seven freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 900—1310—1724. Houses inhabited, 312.

The *Berry* is the scite of an oblong encampment, certainly Roman, inclosing a space of nearly forty acres, and fortified with double entrenchments round the edge of the hill. Some coins of Antoninus and Constantine have been found here.

The benefice is a rectory in Dursley deanery. Roger Lord Berkeley gave the advowson to the priory of Stanley St. Leonard's, and thirty acres in this parish now pay tythes to Stanley. The patronage is now in the King, and Thomas Esbury Partridge, A. B. is incumbent.

Sir Herbert Croftes, Bart. was promoted to the see of Worcester from this church, in 1677.

The church, dedicated to St. Giles, consists of a nave and south aisle, with a low embattled tower on the north side. There is a sepulchral chapel belonging to the Bassett's family on the N. side of the chancel.

In P. N. tax. the church of Iweleye, 7*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

In King's books, 12*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

CCLXVII. WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE, *olim* UUTUNE,

Is four miles s. from Dursley, and nineteen from Gloucester in the same direction. The soil, extending over 3500 acres, is in general of stone-brash, and in tillage, except immediately in the vicinity of the town, where it is deeper, and affords excellent pasture and meadow. The situation of this place near the foot of a ridge of hills,

seems easily to lead to the etymology of the name, which, when resolved into its component parts, is *Wood town under ridge*.

It is a market town and borough, but sends no members to Parliament. In 1253 Maurice Lord Berkeley caused a leet, consisting of the resiants within the borough, to be taken out of the great hundred of Berkeley, and granted to the inhabitants of the borough the same usages, liberties, and customs which were enjoyed by Tetbury; and in the following year obtained a grant of a weekly market on Friday, and a fair on the eve, day, and morrow of the Exaltation of the Cross, which is now kept on the 25th of September. In 1272, the jury at the leet holden at Michaelmas, were authorised to chuse one person out of the burgesses, under the title of mayor, which they have continued to do till the present time. The right of imposing a fine on the mayor elect for refusing to take the office, was confirmed by a verdict at the Lent assizes in 1695. This town gave name to an usurped jurisdiction called the hundred of Wotton, set up by the descendants of Richard de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, during the long dispute between that family and the Berkeleys, but no such independent jurisdiction was ever legally obtained. Thomas Talbot, Viscount Lisle, grandson of Richard de Beauchamp, by Elizabeth, the heiress of William Lord Berkeley, resided in this borough, and there are some remains of the house in arched door-ways, &c. still distinguishable at the lower part of the town (260).

Wotton was burnt down in the reign of John, and a place called the *Brands*, is supposed to mark its ancient scite. The modern town consists of several streets, and stands on sixty acres of ground. The buildings in general are good, and some belonging to particular families of

property are modern and elegant. The clothing manufacture furnishes employment for the poor. *New Mill*, belonging to Messrs. Austin, about a mile and a half from the town, is a complete establishment of the clothing manufacture, and employs under its roof about 200 men, women, and children. Spanish wool alone is manufactured at this work, and prepared for the weaver of broadcloth and kerseymere. The process is as follows⁶⁵: the wool in its rough state is first *picked* or freed from its tags and other impurities, then oiled on a tin floor to soften it for working; after this it goes into the first scribbling machine, where the locks are loosened, detached and divided, from thence into a second similar machine, where the wool is reduced to a still finer consistence; it is then thrown into another machine of similar construction, and experiences the same process, except that passing under a fluted cylindrical roller, it is discharged from it in long and thin masses, as a preparation for spinning. These are carried by children to the *Spinning Billy*, by the curious and rapid operation of which they are lengthened, twisted into coarse threads, and wound up into cones; the *Spinning Jennies* then receive them, which first untwisting them, twist them again in a contrary direction into finer and tighter threads, and form them into cones as before. These are sent to the neighbouring weavers and manufactured into cloth, which is *rowed*, or smoothed and cleansed from ends and knots, by being passed under a cylinder revolving with a rapid motion, and armed with teazle heads. After frequent repetitions it is carried to the fulling mill, and then completed by the dyer. The men and women work by the piece, and earn from one to two guineas per week, and children of six years old are enabled to earn each eighteen-pence at least (256).

This manor was a member of the lordship of Berkeley. Thomas Berkeley, the fourth of that name, married Margaret, daughter of Gerrard Warren, Lord Lisle, and on his death in 1418, left an only daughter, Elizabeth, married to Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and heir general to the whole estate of the Berkeley family.—From this marriage arose the great dispute before referred to, and which was at last settled in favour of the Berkeley family, against the family of Talbot, Lord Lisle, whose claim was founded on the marriage of his father, John, the great Earl of Shrewsbury, with Margaret, the eldest daughter of the before-mentioned Earl of Warwick. The title on the side of the Berkeleys was derived by an estate *taille* limited to the heirs male, and James, Lord Berkeley, the brother of Thomas, the father of Elizabeth, Countess of Warwick, set up his claim under it, but Richard Beauchamp being in possession of the castle, had possession also of the papers and writings, which prevented the regular evidences being brought forward. The Earl of Berkeley is now lord of the manor of Wotton borough and Wotton foreign.

TYTHINGS and HAMLETS. 1. SINWELL and BRADLEY make one tything. The parish church stands within the hamlet of Sinwell.

Bradley gave name to a family who were proprietors of it in the reign of Rich. I. Thomas Lord Berkeley gave many lands in this place to the abbey of Bristol, which, after the dissolution, were granted to the dean and chapter of Bristol, under whom they are now held by lease. Thomas Dawes, Esq. was lessee, from whom the house called *Cannons House*, with a good estate, descended to his great niece, Mrs. Smart. It is now the property of

Richard Nelmes, Esq. son of the late Thomas Nelmes, Esq. of the same place.

Other proprietors in these hamlets are, George Austin, Henry Austin, and Goodson Vines, Esqrs.

2. SYMONDSHALL and COMBE constitute another tything.

Symondshall is said to be one of the most elevated spots in the county, extending over a large plain, on which is a house, which has been the residence of the Veels for many generations. This family derive their origin from Elias, a younger brother of Robert Fitzharding, the ancestor of the Berkeleys, to whom the manor and estate belong.

A church or chapel formerly stood here, as is evident from a writing belonging to St. Bartho. Hospital, Gloc. which mentions a fardel of land lying between the land of Adam de Tedepen and the church of Symondeshall on the south.

Combe lies E. of the church, in which a good estate belonged to the Rev. Mr. Somerville(121), lately dead, which came to him in right of his mother, who was daughter of Mr. Hicks, a former proprietor.

William Moore Adey, Esq. has a very good house and estate here.

The Rudge is sometimes called a manor in ancient records. It belonged to the abbey of Kingswood, and with those religious societies it was not unusual to give the name of a manor to all their property, and in most cases to gain manerial rights. At the dissolution it was granted to the Poyntz family, and from them probably passed to Nathaniel Ridler, Esq. and from him to the late Rev. Richard Brereton, Clerk, in right of his wife, youngest daughter of the said N. Ridler, Esq.(159) and is now the property of his son and heir, Thomas Westfaling, Esq.

In P. N. tax. *Abbas de Kyngeswod habet apud Grang. quæ vocat. Egge, tres caruc. terr. et valet caruc. decem solid.*

WORTLEY is another tything, and very populous, where was formerly a chapel dedicated to St. John, and founded by Thomas Lord Berkeley. This was part of the manor of Wotton, and was sold by George Lord Berkeley and his mother, 1632, to Richard Poole, Gent. and was enrolled in chancery by the name of a manor. It afterwards passed into the family of the Hales, of Alderley, and has descended to John Blagdon Hale, Esq. of Alderley (273).

HUNTINGFORD tything formerly belonged to the same proprietors as Symondshall, and passed into the family of Wogan by marriage with an heiress. At this time the manor was held of the King as of the hundred of Grumbaldsash. The Earl of Berkeley is now lord paramount, but William Moore Adey, Esq. of Combe, has a good estate here, and exercises manerial rights.

In Church-lane is an alms-house for the support of 30 aged women, at 3s. each per week. The following inscription is over the door:—

GLORIA DEO, GRATIA FUNDATORI.

Which Founder was Hugh Perrie, Esq. and Alderman of the city of London, who was borne in this town, and besides this guift gave many other good guifts for the good of this towne.

Anno Domini, 1638. H. P.

Fifty-seven freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 3500—4000—3393. Houses inhabited, 638.

The benefice is styled a vicarage in Dursley deanery, but is endowed with no tythes, only with a stipend of 43*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* from the impropriation. It has been augmented by a donation from the late Ed. Colston, Esq. by another from the feoffees of the market, and Queen Anne's bounty.

The advowson anciently belonged to the nunnery of Berkeley, and was treacherously obtained from them by Earl Godwin. It was afterwards in the crown, then in the Berkeley family, and next in the abbey of Bristol. It was again restored to the Berkeleys, and by them given to the abbey of Tewkesbury in the reign of Hen. VII. After the dissolution the rectory and advowson were granted to Christ Church Coll. Ox. the dean and chapter of which cathedral are now patrons, and William De-chair Tattersal, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a large and handsome structure, consisting of a nave and two aisles, with a lofty embattled and pinnacled tower at the west end. The arms of Berkeley are in many windows of the church. There were several chantries in it, and a house founded for Friars of the Holy Cross in the town.

In P. N. tax. the church of Wotton, 35*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

The vicar's portion, 5*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

In the King's books, 13*l.* 10*s.*

Lower Part.

CCLXVIII. ALMONDSBURY, *anciently* ALMODESBURY,

Is seven miles N. from Bristol, and about twenty-seven s. from Gloucester. The parish, containing 6000 acres, affords a great variety of soil. On the higher lands it covers a bed of limestone, and is light and chiefly in tillage. In the lower parts, it is a deep loam, and principally in pasture, meadow, and orcharding. Those lands which lie near to the Severn are liable to inundations, and though every possible precaution is taken by the Com-

missioners of Sewers, yet great damage is often done; particularly in 1786, very considerable mischief happened on both sides of the river. From a return made by the proprietors of lands, it appeared, that 1342 acres in this parish were liable to be overflowed.

The name was probably derived from Alcmund, a West Saxon Prince, father of Egbert, who was supposed to have been buried here, and previous to his death to have had a burgh or bury, that is, an encampment or fortification here, the remains of which, or some other, are visible, both on the top of the hill, near to the windmill, and also at Knole, where is a rampire and double ditch. Whether this was the work of the Saxons or the British, must remain a doubt; but if credit is to be given to Wantner's Papers, now preserved in the Bodleian, (which however is not allowed by some,) the skeletons of two men were found in 1650, with two coins of doubtful authority, no inscription being legible, but one of them bore the impression of a falcon, and the other was a head, with the appearance of Claudius Cæsar. If the head be allowed to be Roman, the eagle might easily be mistaken for a falcon, and the person buried will then be a Roman, which certainly is not improbable; but the same author adds, that the skeleton exceeded the usual height of a man by three feet, and was buried sitting, which, according to Drexelius, was the customary manner of burying kings and princes. One circumstance militates against the supposition of their being Roman, which is that of being covered with a tumulus, which was not the practice of that people, but more common with the British.

This manor belonged to Robert Fitzharding, who gave it, among other manors, to the abbey of Bristol. At the

dissolution 1545, it was granted to Miles Partridge. Henry D'Arcy, who had livery of it in 1558, sold it to Thomas Chester. William Chester his father, was a younger branch of the Chesters, co. Huntingdon. Thomas, the purchaser of this manor, was high sheriff of the county 1577, and mayor of Bristol in 1569. William, his son, was succeeded by Thomas, high sheriff in 1617, whose son, Thomas, died 1686, leaving Thomas, high sheriff 1699, and lord of the manor at the beginning of last century. Thomas, his son, died without issue in 1763, and bequeathed his property to Elizabeth Lucy Chester, the daughter and only child of his brother, Richard Howe Chester. She was married to William Bromley, of Warwickshire, (who assumed the name and arms of Chester.) He was elected Member in Parliament for this county in 1776, but dying soon after, left his widow in possession of this and other estates, and on her death about 1800, the family property descended to Thomas Masters, Esq. of Cirencester.

Knole-house, the family mansion of the Chesters, is situated on a high point, and commands a view of the Bristol channel, with the distant hills of South Wales. Of the old manor house, which was in a bottom, only a barn remains.

TYTHINGS. 1. HEMPTON and PATCHWAY, alias *Pittishaw*, is in the lower division of the hundred of Langley and Swineshead, a mile from the church. The manor belonged to the Rev. John Sedgewick Whalley, in right of his wife, the daughter and heiress of Edward Jones, of Langford-court, co. Somerset, who sold it to Edmund Probyn, Esq. of Winterbourn, from whom it again passed by purchase to Edmund Brice, the younger, Esq. and Jos. Mason Cox, M. D. (305).

The principal estates in Hampton are the property of Ed. Sacheverell Sitwell, Esq. (298) Those in Patchway of Thomas Masters, Esq. (99)

WOODLAND is a hamlet, in which Sydenham Teast, Esq. was principal proprietor; but now, by purchase, — Ady, Esq. The other estates are vested in the families of Marsh and Cox.

2. OVER, in the same hundred, has had a variety of proprietors since the general survey. Maurice de Gaunt held it 1230. From him it passed to the Gournays, and by marriage to the Ap Adams, from whom it came, by purchase, to Thomas Lord Berkeley. On the attainder of Sir William Berkeley, the manor was granted to Thos. Brian, 1485, who sold it to John Poyntz; and by marriage of his daughter Alice with Sir Edward Berkeley, it reverted to that family, and continued there till John Berkeley, about 1570, sold it to John Dowell, of Bristol, from whom it passed in lineal descent to John Bridges Baker Dowell, Esq. who dying unmarried, 1743, bequeathed all his property to his tutor and friend, the Rev. Mr. Degge, on whose death, in 1776, this manor, with several other large estates, devolved to his sister, Mrs. Wilmot. By marriage with her daughter, they came into the family of Sitwell (298).

The manor house is delightfully situated within a park of considerable extent, and commands all the advantages of prospect which nature has allowed to this picturesque district of the county.

EASTER COMPTON, that is *Eastward*, three miles from the church, is a hamlet in this tything, and principally belongs to Thomas Masters, Esq. by heirship from the Chesters.

3 GAUNT'S URCOTT, so called from an ancient proprietor, alias *Earthcote*, lying in the lower division of Thornbury hundred, nearly three miles from the church.

Richard de Gourney before mentioned founded a hospital in his manor house, called Bilswick, and endowed it with this manor. At the dissolution, Hen. VIII. granted it to the corporation of Bristol, who are now lords of the manor. The hospital was re-founded in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and is now called Gaunt's hospital. It stands within the liberties of Bristol, and is now applied to the use of the blue-coat boys.

Within this manor is a moated farm, belonging to the corporation of Bristol, called St. Swithin's chapel, the body of which and the chancel were standing at the beginning of last century; and in the present house is a room now called the chapel.

BROKENBOROW is a reputed manor, wherein a chantry was founded in the same year with the abbey of Bristol. After the dissolution, it belonged to the Berkeleys, and from Henry Lord Berkeley a fourth part passed by purchase to John Hollister and others, in 1566. The house was called Standshall-court, and the lands are known by the same name.

In the MSS. of John Smith, dated 1639, it is remarked, that "lead hath byn digged in the hilly part of this parish, and that the fayre castle of Berkeley, for part of her coveringe, doth acknowledge herself beholdinge to it."

Seventeen freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 530— —, —851. Houses inhabited, 112.

The benefice is a vicarage, in the deanery and diocese of Bristol, but archdeaconry of Gloucester. Before the reformation, the advowson was in the abbey, and was af-

terwards granted to the new see of Bristol; the Bishop of which is now patron, and Thomas Hunter, clerk, is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is large, and handsomely pewed with Dutch oak. It consists of a nave and two aisles, a well proportioned spire in the middle, with eight bells, and cross aisles on each side. The whole is covered with lead. In the chancel is an altarpiece of Dutch oak, of the Corinthian order, with a neat pavement before it, and a table of grey marble. The whole building and ornaments are in a style of elegance, chastened by simplicity, worthy of its sacred destination.

In P. N. tax. the church of Almondsbury, 20*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

In King's books, 20*l.*

CCLXIX. ELBERTON, *anciently* ELDBERTON,

Is eleven miles N. from Bristol, and twenty-eight S. W. from Gloucester. The soil is a strong red loam, and chiefly in pasture, with a small portion of tillage.

The name, according to Smith's MSS. and Atkyns, signifies an *old barton* or *farm*: this, however, does not altogether agree with the name as written in P. N. tax.

Domesday records five hides in this place as belonging to the manor of Berkeley, which were included in the grant of Henry II. to Robert Fitzharding (see Beverstone). By him it was given to Robert, his third son, on whose death, in the reign of John, it descended to Maurice de Gaunt, who had taken the name of his mother, Alice de Gaunt; by whose death without issue, in 1230, it came to Robert de Gournay, son of Eva, sister of Maurice, and on his death, 1269, descended to his son Anselm, and from him to John, on whose death without issue, it passed to

Elizabeth his sister, and wife of Sir John Ap Adam, of whom, 1312, it was bought by Maurice Berkeley, Knt. second son of Maurice, the third Lord Berkeley, and continued in his descendants till the attainder of Sir W. Berkeley, in the first year of Hen. VII. when it was granted to Jaspar, Earl of Pembroke; however, upon composition with the Earl, most of the lands came back to Sir William Berkeley; but it is not clear from the records how or from whom the manor passed out of the family to the Walshes, who were proprietors to the latter end of Hen. VIII. George Smith was lord of the manor in 1608; and Sir Thomas Cann, at the beginning of the last century, by descent from Sir Robert Cann, Bart. who came to it by marriage with Cecily, daughter of Humphrey Hooke. The last Baronet of that name died in 1765, without issue, and was succeeded by his nephew, Robert Cann Jefferies, Esq. on whose death, in 1773, unmarried, his sister, the widow of the late Sir H. Lippincott, became the heiress; whose son, Sir Henry Cann Lippincott, Bart. is now lord of the manor.

Some lands were separated from the manor by Anselm de Gournay, in the reign of Edw. I. and sold to Thomas Norrys, which, after having frequently changed their proprietors, and much divided, have been transferred in a great measure from the families of Browne and Vaughan to the Goldneys, of Clifton.

Some lands which formerly belonged to the abbey were, after the dissolution, granted to the see of Bristol.

Upon an eminence above the church are the remains of a camp or outpost, probably Roman.

Two freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 104—122—179. Houses inhabited, 37.

The benefice is a vicarage in Bristol deanery and arch-

deaconry of Gloucester, and was consolidated with Olveston in 1767; in consequence of which the Bishop has one turn, and the Dean and Chapter of Bristol two, in the presentation. John Robert Charlton, A. M. is incumbent. The impropriation was given by the Bishop to the curate of Horfield.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, consists of a nave, two aisles, and a tower and spire in the middle, probably of the architecture of the 13th century.

In P. N. tax. the chapel of Aylbrighton, 5*l*.

CCLXX. FILTON and HAY,

Is a parish of small extent, situate on the great road from Gloucester to Bristol, thirty miles s. from the former, and four n. from the latter. It is nearly square, and the soil being of a stiff clay, is chiefly in pasture.

One head of the little river Trin or Trim rises here.

At the time of the general survey Filton was a part of Horfield, and therefore is not mentioned; but it seems to have become a distinct place, or parish, when Robert Fitzharding gave the other part of Horfield to the abbey of Bristol. Sir Thomas Fitz-Nicholls, a descendant of the Berkeley family, and his son Thomas, died seized of it in 1393 and 1419. The manor, still held under the Berkeleys, was probably divided after this between the families of Browning, of Haresfield, and Blount, by marriage with the daughters, co-heiresses of Thomas Fitz-Nicholls. In 1570 it had passed to Thomas Mallet, Esq. and afterwards to John Pope, Esq. about the beginning of last century, and now belongs to Frederick, Earl of Berkeley, without landed property.

Six messuages in this parish were given by Rob. Fitzharding to the abbey of Bristol, whose claim to them as part of the manor of Horfield was allowed 15 Ed. I. After the dissolution they were granted to the see of Bristol, and are still part of its possessions.

The principal estate was transferred to John Brickdale, Esq. and, with another, the property of the family of Gayner, is held under the manor by Matthew Brickdale, Esq. who resides at Monkshorton, co. Somerset.

HAY, is a hamlet and manor, formerly belonging to the family of Mallet.

The principal proprietors are Sir Cecil Bishop, James Fowler, Esq. &c.

In this and some of the adjoining parishes great quantities of Woodwaxen (*genista tinctoria*) are collected in the summer and carried into Bristol; from which by boiling and other processes, a fine yellow colouring matter is produced, and being mixed up with whiting is sold under the name of yellow-pink.

One freeholder voted in 1776.

Population, 80—125—115. Houses inhabited, 18.

The benefice is a rectory in the deanery and diocese of Bristol, originally appropriated to the abbey of that place, but the advowson was once annexed to the manor. In the sale of episcopal estates, made in 1649, the manors and impropriations of Horfield and Filton were purchased by Thomas Andrews for 1236*l.* 14*s.* but this can refer only to the six messuages before mentioned as far as relates to this parish. Matthew Brickdale, Esq. is patron, and incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is a small and low building, consisting of a nave and semitranssept with a

low tower and five bells at the west end. Atkyns mentions the spire as having been blown down by the wind.

In P. N. tax. the chapel of Filton, 5*l*.

In the King's books, 7*l*.

CCLXXI. HILL, or HULL,

Is situate between Berkeley and Thornbury, three miles s. w. from the former, four n. from the latter, and twenty-two s. w. from Gloucester. It seems to have been so named from its elevation towards the east, particularly that part on which the seat of the Fust family is built. The lands after shelving from the hill extend in a level direction for about two miles to the Severn, divided into spacious meadows, of a deep soil, very fertile, but from the nature of the situation, subject to frequent inundations. The parish contains about 2000 acres.

The manor is mentioned in Domesday as a member of the great lordship of Berkeley. It was granted by Hen. II. to Robert Fitzharding, to hold by knight's service; by him it was given to Nicholas his second son, and his heirs; he died 1195, and left it to his son Roger, who on his death, in 1231, was succeeded by his son Nicholas; he died in 1262, and left issue Ralph, who died in 1291, and left Nicholas, who was succeeded by his son John 1333, who died in 1376, leaving Thomas his grandson and heir, son of Reginald, who died in his father's life time. Thos. usually written Thomas Fitz-Nicholl, had two daughters, one of whom, Catherine, was married to Robert Poyntz, and by this marriage the manor of Hill came to the family of Poyntz, in which it continued till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when it was sold by Sir John Poyntz to Nich. Dimery, who sold it to Henry Fleetwood, and from him

it soon passed by purchase to Richard Fust, of London. From Sir Edward Fust his son, who was created Baronet in 1662, it descended to Sir John Fust, the fifth Baronet, who dying without issue male, in 1779, bequeathed his manerial estate to dame Phillippa his relict, with remainder to Miss Langley, of Thornbury, co. Glouc. his sister's daughter. The greatest part of the parish is attached to the manor.

The family of Fust came from Switzerland, and about 1420 had considerable property in Sussex. Thomas Fust, of Ware, co. Herts, suffered death for the protestant religion in 1555; and Edward Fust was an eminent loyalist during the civil war, and his zealous services procured him the dignity of Baronet on the restoration of Charles the second.

The ancient manor-house, of which a view is given in Atkyns, is now demolished, and in the place of it was built by Sir Edward Fust, the fourth Baronet, the present house. It consists of one side of an intended square, and is very extensive. The centre is occupied by the hall, 80 feet long, and in good proportion.

From the scite of this house the prospect opens on the west to a very fine reach of the Severn, and beyond it the cliffs of Monmouthshire, and the distant mountains of Wales, with the high lands and pendant woods of the forest of Dean, on the right, compose the landscape.

The great sewer at Hill Pill, called the *Imperial Draught*, and the two others above it, were planned, built, and erected in 1750, by Sir Francis Fust, Bart. at his own expence, and have been productive of great benefit to the inhabitants.

Four freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 200—146—220. Houses inhab. 35.

The benefice is a donative or free chapel, in the deanery of Dursley, having been with the whole tythes, parcel of the abbey of St. Augustine's, in Bristol. It was granted to the chapter of Bristol on the establishment of the new see, and is now in lease to the family of Fust, who have likewise the nomination of the curate. William Llewelin, clerk, is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Michael, has a nave only and low obtuse spire. It was completely repaired at the expence of Sir Francis Fust, Bart. in 1759.

CCLXXII. HORFIELD, *anciently* HORFELLE,

Is a small parish two miles N. from Bristol, and thirty-two S. from Gloucester, intersected by the turnpike road between these two cities. The soil is a strong and fertile clay, chiefly in pasture, and extends over 1100 acres.

One of the heads of the Trin, or Trim, rises in this parish.

At the time of the Domesday survey this was part of the great manor of Berkeley; but being given by Robert Fitzharding to the abbey of St. Augustine, it continued a parcel of its possessions till the dissolution, when it was granted to the new see of Bristol, which has held it ever since.

The lease of the manor was long held by the ancestors of Thos. Michell, Esq. barrister-at-law, whose sole daughter and heir was Isabella, the wife of John Shadwell, Esq. of Cork, in Ireland; and John Shadwell, M. D. is now lessee of the manor, with more than half the parish.

Lady Jane Cave is proprietor of a considerable freehold estate.

One freeholder voted in 1776.

Population, 100—125—119. Houses inhabited, 19.

The benefice is a curacy, in the diocese and deanery of Bristol, of small value, but was augmented, in 1718, by Queen Anne's bounty, and the benefactions of Edward Colston and Thomas Edwards, Esqrs. The impropriation formerly belonged to the abbey, and does now to the Bishop of Bristol. is incumbent.

The church is a small building, with a nave only, and a low pinnacled tower at the west end.

In P. N. tax. the chapel of Horefeld, 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

VIII. GRUMBALDSASH HUNDRED.

Upper Part.

CCLXXIII. ALDERLEY, *anciently* ALRELIE.

Is two miles s. e. from Wotton-under-edge, and twenty-one s. from Gloucester. The soil is principally a firm reddish sand, on the lower lands, and extends over about 850 acres, applied more to pasture than arable.

Two small brooks bound the parish on the north and south; and, uniting their streams, form the Avon, which falls into the Severn at Berkeley.

This manor, among others, belonged to Milo Crispin at the time of the general survey. In the reign Ed. IV. it was the property of the Stanshaw family (315), afterwards of Richard Becket, and in the reign of Hen. VIII. of John Poyntz, son of Sir Robert Poyntz, and younger brother of Sir Anthony Poyntz, of Iron Acton. Robert, his great

grandson, sold the manor to — Rogers, of whom it was purchased by Mr. Barker, of Fairford, who exchanged it with Sir Matthew Hale for the manor of Meyseyhampton. The family of Hale has been of long standing in this country, and always esteemed for their probity and charity. Matthew Hale, Esq. a descendant from Sir Matthew, the purchaser, was the late possessor of the manor and family estates, and dying in 1784, left the property to John Blagdon Hale, Esq. who having married his niece and heiress, pursuant to the directions of the will, assumed, by the King's licence, the arms and surname of Hale.

The mansion-house was rebuilt on a spacious and elegant plan, but on a more elevated situation than the former, by the late Matthew Hale, Esq.

Sir Matthew Hale, Knt. Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, son of Robert Hale, and Joan, daughter of Matthew Poyntz, of Alderley, was born in 1609, and buried in the church-yard of this parish 1676⁶⁶. His extensive knowledge of the law, impartiality in the administration of it, together with his piety and benevolence, rendered him at once an ornament to his country, an honour to the county of Gloucester, peculiarly so to this parish, in which he was born, and the family from which he was descended. His private contemplations were given to the public at the importunity of his friends. His uniform attendance on the public service of the church for thirty-six years without an omission, and the constant homage of reverence which he paid on each mention of the name of God, ought to be recorded for the admonition of every age.

The clothing manufacture is carried on in this parish to a considerable extent by Matthew A'Deane, and William Larton, Esqrs.

The former resides in a handsome house, with an estate, which came to him by marriage with the daughter and heiress of the late William Springett, Esq. of Wickwar (283).

The latter has a good modern-built house, pleasantly situated on the side of a hill fronting the south.

Two freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 120—157—212. Houses inhabited, 36.

The benefice is a rectory, in Hawkesbury deanery, in the patronage of John Blagdon Hale, Esq. and James Phelps, A. M. is incumbent.

The church (which is now taking down, and a new one rebuilding) was dedicated to St. Kenelme, and consisted of a nave and two aisles of different dimensions, with a pinnacled tower at the west end. There was a head of a king on the outside of the stone work of the south window, and another of a bishop opposite, which have been supposed to be those of Hen. III. and the bishop in whose time the church was founded.

In the King's books (discharged) 11*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*

CCLXXIV. BADMINTON, (GREAT,) *anciently* MAD-MINTUNE,

Is distant from Gloucester about twenty-six miles, and, with Little Badminton, is nearly comprehended within the boundary wall and liberties of the Duke of Beaufort, a circumference of ten miles, and comprehending 2000 acres. The soil is best adapted to arable, and principally applied to it.

The manor was originally held by Edric, next by Her-nulfus, and 1275 by Ralph Boteler, in whose family it passed in regular succession to the twelfth descendant, Ni-

cholas, in 1608, who sold it to Thomas Somerset, third son of Edward Earl of Worcester, who was created Viscount Somerset, of Cashel, in Ireland. His only daughter Elizabeth dying unmarried, left it to Henry Somerset, Lord Herbert, afterwards first Duke of Beaufort.

This noble family derive their origin from Geoffry Plantagenet, who was lineally descended from John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, whose eldest son, John, was created Earl of Somerset 20 Rich. II. He died in 1410, and was succeeded by his eldest son, John, who dying unmarried, left his inheritance to his brother John, who was created Duke of Somerset 1443. He left an only daughter, Margaret, married to Edmund Tudor, and by him the mother of King Henry VII. Edmund, the third brother, succeeded, Marquis of Dorset, and Duke of Somerset, who being killed in the battle at St. Alban's in 1455, left Henry, third duke, who, after many great exploits, was beheaded at the battle of Hexham, in 1463, and was succeeded by his brother Edmund, who was beheaded at the battle of Tewkesbury in 1471. He dying without issue, as also his two younger brothers, John and Thomas, the male line of John of Gaunt was extinct.

Henry left a natural son, Charles Somerset, who, by his great and gallant conduct, was raised to high honours, and in 1517, was created Earl of Worcester, having before borne the title of Lord Herbert, in right of his wife, Elizabeth, sole daughter and heiress of William Herbert, Earl of Huntingdon, Lord Herbert, of Ragland, Chepstow, and Gower. At his death in 1526, Henry, second Earl of Worcester, came to the title, and died 1549, and was succeeded by his son William, who sat as one of

the peers on the trial of Mary Queen of Scots. Edward, his only son, was fourth earl, who dying in 1627, was succeeded by his second son, Henry, the eldest having died in his life time; this was the noble earl who maintained the castle of Ragland with so much success against the Parliament for four years, with a garrison of 800 men, at his own expence. In 1646 Edward, the eldest son, succeeded him, and received from the King the title of Marquis of Worcester. He was the renowned author of 'The Century of Inventions.' On his death in 1667, Henry, his only son came to the title, and in 1682 was advanced to the title of Duke of Beaufort. Henry, his grandson, son of Charles, the second son, succeeded as duke in 1699, and was followed in 1714 by his eldest son, Henry, who dying without issue, was succeeded by his brother, Charles Noel Somerset, who, by marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of John Berkeley, of Stoke Giffard, and sister of the late Norborne Lord Botetourt, had issue Henry, born in 1744, and five daughters, Lady Anne, married to Charles, Earl of Northampton; Lady Elizabeth, who died in 1760; Lady Rachael, who died an infant; Lady Henrietta, who was married to Sir Watkyn Williams Wynne, and died 1769; and Lady Maria Isabella, the present Dutchess Dowager of Rutland. His present Grace, Henry, the fifth Duke of Beaufort, came to the title in 1756, and in 1766 married Elizabeth, daughter of the late Admiral Boscawen, by whom he hath a numerous issue living.

Badmington house, the residence of the noble family of Beaufort, stands on the scite of the ancient building which was the seat of the Botelers. The first Duke of Beaufort founded it soon after his accession to the title. It is a noble edifice, with one regular and magnificent front, looking to the north. The grand approach is through the

park from Worcester lodge, which is an elegant building, and distant nearly three miles from the house. The grounds around it are agreeably varied with gentle risings and depressions, and well managed plantations. The formal box and yew trees, which were the fashion of King William's days, have given way to the more natural and easy style of modern gardening.

Some fossils of the oyster and periwinkle kind are found here, and it is said the bullet stone, which Dr. Plot so much wished to examine.

No freeholder voted in 1776.

Population, 176—200—423. Houses inhabited, 70.

The benefice is a vicarage in Hawkesbury deanery. It formerly belonged to the abbey of Pershore. The Duke is patron, and Robert Penny, D. D. incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Michael, stands at the south east corner of the house, and is connected with it by a passage. It was built by the present noble duke in 1785, and is an edifice of singular elegance. The whole is divided into a nave and two side aisles, by two rows of columns, and at the western end, in a transverse direction, is a gallery of oak for the accomodation of the family. In correctness of taste, chastity of design, and neatness of execution, it is perhaps not equalled, certainly not exceeded. The approach to the altar is made by steps of jasper and verd antique. The pavement is composed of precious marbles, disposed in such a manner that the centre forms, on a large scale, the arms of the family, parts of which are inlaid with lapis lazuli. On each side of the altar is a marble monument, in memory of some branches of the Somersets, executed in the best stile of Rysbrack; and a great variety of memorials are erected in other parts

of the church. The whole is finished with a pinnacled tower containing three bells.

In P. N. tax. the church of great Badmynton, 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

In the King's books (discharged) 5*l.* 5*s.* 5½*d.*

CCLXXV. BADMINTON, (LITTLE,) *anciently* MAD-MINTUNE,

Is a hamlet or chapelry, formerly considered as belonging to Hawkesbury, but in ecclesiastical concerns annexed by an agreement and order made in 1750 to Great Badminton. The soil, which is light, consists wholly of arable lands, which contribute to the parish rates of Hawkesbury. The whole is included within the limits of Badminton Park.

The manor and chapel formerly belonged to Pershore abbey, and at the dissolution were granted to John Boteler, and have ever since had the same proprietors as Great Badminton. No house of consequence now remains in it.

The benefice was a chapelry of ease to Hawkesbury, but annexed to Great Badminton.

No freeholder voted in 1776.

Population, —,—100—95. Houses inhabited, 15.

The chapel, dedicated to St. Michael, is an ancient structure, consisting of a nave and aisle, which are separated by low pillars, and a small slated tower at the west end. It was much dilapidated, but has lately been repaired, and divine service is occasionally performed in it. On the building of the new church at Great Badminton, 1785, the burying-ground was enlarged and re-consecrated, and appropriated to the use of both places.

CCLXXVI. BOXWELL, *anciently* BOXEWELLE,
With LEIGHTERTON,

Is distant about four miles E. from Wotton-under-edge, and twenty-four S. from Gloucester. The soil is light, and in the proportion of two-thirds applied to tillage, the remainder is meadow and pasture. The whole extent of this and Leighterton, is about 2039 acres.

The name is derived from a box wood, of about sixteen acres, within a free warren of 40 acres, from which rises a plentiful spring. This is the most considerable wood of the kind in England, excepting Box hill, in Surrey, and from the name, which has now been on record more than seven centuries, it must have been of long standing. The spring rises in sufficient quantity soon to form a stream and one of the heads of the Avon which falls into the Severn, at Berkeley, and the productions of it are small trout and crayfish.

Domesday records Boxewell as a portion of the possessions of Gloucester abbey, and taxed at five hides. The family of Huntley were either possessed of a joint property with the abbey, or mesne lords under it, for many generations. In the taxation of Pope Nicholas about 1291, the abbey was charged for three carucates of lands, valued at seven shillings each, and a mill. John Huntley, Esq. of Standish, was certainly a lessee under the abbey, as appears by a grant, dated 1533. A moiety of lands in Boxwell, Laterton, and Wast, belonging anciently to the abbey of Glouc. and afterwards to Sir Walter Raleigh, till his attainder, was by the crown granted to Vanlore and Blake, the former of whom was lord of the manor in 1608. George Huntley was purchaser of it in 1612: from

whom it has descended to Richard Huntley, clerk, A. M. with the estates in Boxwell.

An ancient manerial house near the church, now modernized and elegantly improved, has been the residence of the family from the original purchase at the beginning of the 17th century.

In the dining parlour, the present proprietor has judiciously preserved a handsome chimney-piece, erected probably by his ancestor when it first came into the family, and finished with Corinthian columns in the best stile of workmanship. The arms of the family are among the ornaments with which it is embellished.

Leland retains a tradition of a nunnery in this place, which was destroyed by the Danes. Foundation-stones which have been discovered, fix the scite of the building in a most romantic valley between the church and the hill.

Near the road from Gloucester to Bath, on the west side is a tumulus, called West Barrow, of considerable dimensions. On its being opened, more than a century since, three small vaults were discovered, in which were urns filled with ashes, some bones, but no coins or other Roman antiquities. Barrows, it has been before observed, were, with very few exceptions, British; and if any Roman coins happen to be found in them, it can only be inferred that they were the burial places of some British officers who served in the Roman army.

In the warren were lately discovered a small quantity of Roman coins, some human bones, and stones discoloured as by fire.

The deadly night-shade (*solanum dulcomara*), henbane (*hyoscamus niger*), hemlock (*conium maculatum*), wild thyme (*thymus serpyllum*), marjoram (*origanum vulgare*), and some other plants, grow in the warren.

LEIGHTERTON, is a hamlet about a mile distant from the church. The manor formerly belonged to Humphry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, 1373, and to Robert Stanshaw, 1473. It is now in the same proprietor as Boxwell, but the lands are much divided.

This hamlet has separate parochial officers and rates.

Six freeholders voted from this parish in 1776.

Population, 104—175—217. Houses inhabited, 44.

The benefice is a rectory, in Hawkesbury deanery, in the patronage of the lord of the manor, who also is the incumbent. The advowson formerly belonged to the priory of Walsingham, in Norfolk. After the dissolution it was granted to William Grew and Anthony Forster, 1564. The abbey of Gloucester presented in 1541.

The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, is a low structure, consisting of a nave, one small aisle on the north side, and an octangular turret, terminating in a point, in the middle. The whole building bears marks of great antiquity, but the turret is probably the only part of the original building.

The chapel of Leighterton is a small structure, neatly fitted up in the interior, and has a low embattled tower at the west end.

In P. N. tax. the church of Boxwell, 5*l*.

In the King's books, 23*l*. 4*s*. 9½*d*.

CCLXXVII. CHARFIELD, *anciently CIRVELDE,*

Is a parish, four miles w. from Wotton-under-edge, twenty-three s. w. from Gloucester, and containing about 1800 acres. The greater part of the parish lies on the vast bed of lime-stone rock which is the basis of a considerable line of country in this district. The soil in general is of

sufficient depth to be applied to pasture, with only a small portion of arable. The stream which rises in Boxwell wood, here forms a boundary between this parish and Kingswood, having received another rivulet from Alderley a little higher up.

Tafarn Bach, now corrupted into Tavern Bath, is a small inn, at the crossing of the two roads on the borders of the parish, and is worthy of notice on account of its having been a house of entertainment in very early times; the derivation being purely British, *Tafarn Bach*, signifying in that language *a little alehouse*.

The manor was held at the time of the general survey by Gozelinur Brito, and is described in Bachestanes hundred. It was in the family of Mayseys or Masseys, and the Veels, by intermarriages, from Hen. III. till 1458; and during this interval, it was once in the Berkeleys by marriage. The family of Stanshaw were seized of it from 1473 to 1497. The manor, in 1608, was in the Throckmortons, of Tortworth; and afterwards in the family of Hickes, about the beginning of the 17th century, who were the proprietors of it till the death of Richard Hickes, when it came to his nephew, Joseph Walton, Esq. and it is now the property of Charles Brome Walton, Esq. with some estate.

Lord Ducie has the most considerable estates in the parish.

Other proprietors are, Richard Haynes, Esq. (297) Wm. Pullin, Wm. Cullimore, &c.

Eleven freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 145—200—247. Houses inhabited, 40.

The benefice is a rectory, in Hawkesbury deanery, endowed with 20*l.* a year out of Micklewood chace, in lieu of tythes. The advowson was for several years in the

family of Tyndale, but is now, by purchase, in William Jolliffe, Esq. of Bristol; and Richard Jones, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. James, consists of a nave and south aisle, with a low tower at the west end. Some fragments of painted glass are in the windows, but nothing perfect except the holy rood.

In P. N. tax. the church of Charefeld, 5*l*.

In the King's books, 10*l*. 1*s*. 3*d*.

CCLXXVIII. DIDMARTON, *anciently* DEDMERTONE,

Is six miles w. from Tetbury, and twenty-three s. from Gloucester, situate on the lower extremity of the Cotswold, and bounded by Wiltshire. The soil, extending over 700 acres, is, with a small exception, under tillage.

The latter part of the name signifies, in Saxon, a boundary town (*mere town*).

The turnpike road from Oxford, through Cirencester, to Bath, leads through the village.

The manor anciently belonged to Durand, of Gloucester, and passed from him through the Sywards, Wroston, and Wroughtons, and from the last to the Seacoles. By marriage with Anne, the younger daughter and co-heiress of Richard Seacole, Esq. in the reign of Elizabeth, the manor came into the name and family of Codrington; and of the lineal descendants of this family it was purchased by the late Duke of Beaufort, and the present Duke is lord of the manor, and proprietor of the whole parish.

The old manerial house, built by the Codringtons, is now nearly in ruins.

Several tumuli are existing in different parts of the parish.

No freeholder voted from this parish in 1776.

Population, 56—72—74. Houses inhabited, 20.

The benefice is a rectory in Hawkesbury deanery, in the patronage of the Duke of Beaufort, and George Cook, D. D. is incumbent.

In 1735, it was united to Oldbury-on-the-hill. Fifty-two acres belong to the glebe.

The church, dedicated to St. Lawrence, is small, consisting of a nave and aisle projecting from the end of it. The form is therefore that of L, intended, as it is thought, to answer the initial of the tutelar Saint's name. The turret is of wood.

In the King's books (discharged) 8/.

CCLXXIX. HAWKESBURY, *anciently* HAVOCHESBERIE,

Is a large parish, lying chiefly on the edge of the Lower Coteswolds, containing 6400 acres, distant four miles N. E. from Sodbury, and twenty-five s. from Gloucester. The soil on the hills partakes of the nature of the Coteswolds, and is chiefly in tillage; but the lower parts are deep, and afford rich pasture, which is about four parts in five of the whole, excepting some hundred of acres of wood land.

The latter part of the name implies a camp or military station; but who Havoche was, history does not inform us. Two small brooks rise here, and join the Berkeley Avon near Falfield.

The manor anciently belonged to the church of Saint Mary, Pershore. A grant of markets, fairs, free warren, and court leet, was given in 1253, and allowed 1287. At the dissolution, the manor was granted to John Butler, or Boteler, of Badminton, upon whose death, in 1552, he left it in dower to his relict Sylvestra, daughter of John Guise,

Esq. of Elmore, who was succeeded by John Boteler, in 1565. In 1608, the manor, with the hamlets of Hillsley, Kilcot, Tresham, Seddewood, Upton, and Guston, was held by Nicholas Boteler, Esq. and in 1612, was transferred to Arthur Crewe, Esq. of Alderley, from whose executors it passed by purchase to Sir Robert Jenkinson, Knt. of Walcot, co. Oxford, who was created Baronet in 1661. On the decease of Sir Banks Jenkinson, the sixth Baronet, the title and property devolved to the next heir male, the Right Hon. Charles Jenkinson, Chancellor of the dutchy of Lancaster, who was created Baron of Hawkesbury in 1786, and Earl of Liverpool in 1796, and is now lord of the manor.

The manerial house, which was for some years the residence of the family of Jenkinson, is now reduced to ruins.

In P. N. tax. *Abbas de Persor. habet apud Haukesbur. septem caruc. terr. et valet caruc. tresdecem solid.*

TYTHINGS. 1. HILLSLEY, *anciently HILDESLEI*, is a large village, and has a distinct tythingman. One messuage, a small wood, and certain lands at Brodecroft, belonged to the abbey of Pershore 1316; and other tenants are mentioned. In 1623, Francis Thynne, of the Kempsford family, held this manor. It afterwards passed to the Symonds's, of Dorsetshire, and was purchased of Edw. Cosyn, Esq. of Great Stoughton, co. Huntingdon, and passed, in marriage with his daughter Eliza, to George Tipping, Esq. It has since passed from the families of Hale and Springett, of Alderley, to Matthew A'Deane, Esq. by marriage with a daughter of the last.

The principal property is in the Duke of Beaufort.

Hilsley had a chapel, which is now totally delapidated.

2. TRESHAM, belonged to Thomas Kennett in 1348. John Blagdon Hale, Esq. is lord of the manor, with consi-

derable property (273). The principal proprietors are the Duke of Beaufort, D. Hunt, Esq.(43), Daniel Adey, Esq. Matthew A'Deane, Esq. &c.

In this hamlet is a small chapel, annexed to Hawkesbury. Population, 125, included in total at the end.

3. KILLCOTT. The manor with free warren in Killcott was confirmed to Matilda de Every 1287. It afterwards passed to the families of Bodisant and Stanshawe. Rob. Poyntz, Esq. of Alderley, sold it to Samuel Barker, Esq. of Fairford, who resold it to William Springett, Esq. from whom it descended to Matthew A'Deane, Esq. of Alderley, in right of marriage with his daughter, and he is now lord of the manor.

4. SEDDLEWOOD, is a manor, and belonged for many generations to the family of Workman. Some years since it was sold by Timothy Thomas, gent. to Daniel Adey, Esq. who is succeeded by his nephew, Daniel Adey, Esq. The three last compose one tything.

5. UPTON, is a very extensive tything, situate on the hill. An estate belonged to the Codringtons in 1459, and was by their descendants sold to Sir Robert Jenkinson, and is now part of the possessions of that noble family. An estate, belonging formerly to Robert Wicksey, gent. of Sherstone, co. Wilts, descended to the late Richard Wood, Esq. of Gloucester, who sold it to Nathaniel Watts, Gent. the present possessor.

6. WASTE, or LE WASTE, was transferred from the abbey of Pershore to that of Gloucester, with the advowson of the chapel, by deed executed at Standish in 1377. The chapel of Le Wast, with all tythes and appurtenances, were granted to Francis Marcs and Michael Cole, 1615. The manor afterwards belonged to the Codringtons, and by them was sold to the noble family of Beaufort.

7. BADMINTON PARVA (275).

8. CHALKELEY, belonged to Sir Abraham Elton, Bart. in 1780, and is now vested in his son, of the same name.

Forty-four freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 598—896—1301. Houses inhab. 224.

The benefice is a vicarage, in the deanery to which it gives name. It was formerly impropriate, and annexed to the abbey of Pershore, and the advowson is now in the manor. At the suppression, 1546, the great tythes were granted to John Boteler, and have since been divided into several parcels, and attached to particular estates. Potter Cole, M. A. the last incumbent, was resident sixty-three years on his benefice; and, until the last year of his life, 1801, never was absent from a visitation. Christopher Swainson, M. A. is now incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a large building, with a nave, two aisles, and a heavy embattled tower at the west end. The original building was erected, probably, by the abbey of Pershore, but from the arms of Boteler, carved in stone, and the square windows, which began to be introduced on the decline of the Gothic, in the sixteenth century, it is likely, that the whole was re-erected or repaired by the Botelers. The chancel bears the marks of greater antiquity. In the south chancel was a chantry, established in 1452, to which belonged a geld, or fraternity, endowed with lands at Chalkeley, in this parish, which are still subject to the repairs.

CCLXXX. HORTON, *anciently* HOREDONE,

Is a parish of 2800 acres, two miles N. E. from Chipping Sodbury, and twenty-eight s. from Gloucester. It is divided nearly equally between hill and vale, and the soil

varies accordingly from stone-brash to clay, the former being principally in tillage, and the latter in pasture.

Domesday records this manor as held by Robert de Toden, and taxed at ten hides. From the families of De Abbington and Kayleway, it was transferred to the Bradstones, in the reign of Edw. III. and continued with them for many generations. It was afterwards in the Buxtons, and again in Wm. Knight, Esq. in the reign of Hen. VIII. from whom it passed to Edward Paston, Esq. of Appleton, co. Norfolk, who died in 1630. William Paston, Esq. was succeeded by his brother Clement Paston; on whose death without issue, in 1789, the manor and estates, including the greater part of the parish, were bequeathed to his third wife, Mary Isabella, daughter of John Kempson, Esq. of Sandon, co. Stafford; and are now, by devise, vested in Thomas Brooke, of Chipping Sodbury, Esq.

The Court-house is said to have been built by W. Knight. The chapel, used in the time of the Pastons for the Romish service, has door-cases with Saxon mouldings, over which is an escutcheon, bearing a saltire, charged in the centre with two annulets braced. Another door-case, of the principal entrance, exhibits the kind of sculpture which appeared in England in the reign of Henry VIII. under the protection of Holbein, on the disappearance of the Gothic. The device of a spread eagle, ensigned with a cardinal's hat, is repeated on the chimney-pieces. The late proprietors of this house came first to reside in it in 1710, in consequence of their mansion at Appleton being burnt down in 1708.

Another reputed manor, called *Horewood*, was given by Agnes widow of Henry de Ria and her son, to the church of Salisbury, and was annexed to a prebend there: the claim was allowed in 1287. After the dissolution, it was

granted to the Protector, Somerset, and on his attainder, re-granted, in 1554, to Clement Paston, Esq. father of Edward Paston, whose descendants enjoyed it till it came, with the manerial property, to Thomas Brooke, Esq. as before.

The preceptory of Knights Hospitallers at Quennington were seized of lands, called *Frayers Hay*, which, at the suppression, were granted to John Bellow, 1647.

The only estate independent of the manor was held by the late George Hardwicke, M. D. of Chipping Sodbury, and is now vested in his son, James Hardwicke, clerk, LL. D.

Three freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 120—332—366. Houses inhabited, 65.

The benefice is rectorial, in Hawkesbury deanery, with thirty acres of glebe. The advowson is annexed to the manor, but the late Mr. Paston sold the right of presentation, some years since, for three lives, to John Unwin, of Took's Court, London. John Thornhill, A. M. is incumbent. *Horwood Estate*, called the demesnes, claims an exemption in lieu of tythes on payment of 2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Potter Cole, clerk (279), was rector of this parish during sixty-six years.

The church, dedicated to St. James, consists of a nave, north aisle, and chancel, with an embatteled tower at the west end, of uniform construction, and in the style which prevailed about the close of the fourteenth century. The sepulchral chapel of the Pastons is separated by an arch, and has a timber roof, beautifully carved.

In P. N. tax. the church of Heorton, 5*l.*

Portion of the prebend of Sarum, in tythes, 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

In the King's books, 16*l.*

CCLXXXI. OLDBURY-ON-THE-HILL, *anciently*
ALDEBERIE,

Is a parish six miles s.w. from Tetbury, twenty-three s. from Gloucester, containing 1600 acres, and intersected by the turnpike road leading from Cirencester through Tetbury to Bristol. The soil is stone brash, and principally in tillage.

The additional name was given to distinguish it from another *Oldbury*, on the Severn.

Hernulf de Herding was proprietor at the time of the survey, and taxed at five hides. Till the 7th Hen. IV. the family of Burdon, and after them of Thorp, were possessors till 1465, when, by marriage with Thomasin Thorp, sister to William, the manor passed to Thomas Clifford, whose great-grandson, William, sold it and the advowson to Henry Dennis 1562, whose descendants continued proprietors and patrons till they passed to the noble family of Beaufort, in whom nearly all the parish is vested.

Some barrows remain to shew that this place has been formerly the scene of military transactions.

The *bistort* or snake-weed (*polygonum bistorta*) is found in this parish.

Five freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 80—232—239. Houses inhabited, 54.

The benefice is a rectory, in Hawkesbury deanery, in the patronage of the Duke of Beaufort, and George Cooke, D. D. is incumbent. It was united to Didmarton 1735.

The church, dedicated to Auld the Virgin, has only a nave and chancel, with a low embattled tower at the west end. The interior is decent, and neatly pewed.

In P. N. tax. the portion of the church of Great Badmynton, in the chapel of Odebur. in money, 8s. 6d.

CCLXXXII. TORTWORTH, *anciently* TORTEWORDE,

Is four miles s. from Berkeley, twenty-one s. from Gloucester, and contains 1600 acres. The soil is a red rich loam, producing pasture of an excellent quality, particularly for the dairy, with a small portion of arable, and some wood-land.

This manor was held by Turstin, the son of Rolf, and described as in Bachestane hundred. Nicholas de Kyne-stone was lord of Tortworth in 1281, probably by marriage with a co-heiress, as Sir W. Mansell released all his right in the manor and advowson in exchange for other lands, to Sir Nicholas. He purchased privilege of markets and free-warren in 1359. By marriage with his only daughter, the property passed into the family of Veel, whose descendants were lords, till by marriage with Alice, the heiress of the family, Sir David Matthews, of Glamorganshire, became proprietor in the reign of Hen. VII. William Throckmorton, descended from an ancient family of that name at Fladbury, co. Worcester, married Margaret, the eldest of five daughters of Sir David, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Thomas, in 1567; whose son, Sir William, sold this manor to — Webb, of whom it was afterwards purchased by Sir Robert Ducie, alderman of London, descended from the Ducies in Staffordshire. His son, Sir Richard, dying unmarried, was succeeded by his next brother, Sir William, who was first made Knight of the Bath, and afterwards created Viscount Down in the kingdom of Ireland, by Cha. II. On his death without issue, the manor descended to Elizabeth, only daughter of Robert Ducie, Esq. his younger brother, who by marriage carried it into the present noble fa-

mily (175), and Francis, Lord Ducie, is now lord of the manor, and proprietor of the whole parish.

There was another manor in this parish, which was held of the king as of the hundred of Grumbaldsash.

Avening-House has been sold by Mr. Matthews to Lord Ducie.

Tortworth-House is the residence of Lord Ducie, and has been for some years of the family. The present noble proprietor has made great improvements, both in the house and pleasure-grounds. The situation is near the church, and though low, commands some beautiful views. The large chesnut-tree is still living; and measured in 1791 forty-four feet and four inches in circumference in the largest part of the trunk⁶⁷.

Two freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 240—241—269. Houses inhabited, 52.

The benefice is a rectory, in Hawkesbury deanery. The advowson was for many years in the manor, but is now vested, by purchase, in the Society of Oriel Coll. Oxford, and George Cook, D. D. is incumbent, who has a good parsonage-house, and sixty acres of glebe around it.

The church, dedicated to St. Leonard, has a nave and south aisle, with an embatteled tower at the west end.

In P. N. tax. the church of Tortworth, 7*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

In the King's books, 16*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*

CCLXXXIII. WICKWAR, *anciently* WICHEN,

Is a market town, six miles s. w. from Wotton-under-edge, and twenty-six s. from Gloucester. It is situated at the western base of the Lower Coteswold, and consists of

a rich soil, varying in its qualities from stone-brash to clay. The greater part, of 2000 acres, is in pasture, with some arable, and several acres of common.

The place received the name of War from a family of that name, who were lords of the manor for several generations.

Nearly in the centre of the parish stands the town, consisting of one long street. The privileges of a weekly market on Monday, and a yearly fair, were first granted in the reign of Edw. I.; and the same, with the addition of another fair, were confirmed to Thomas West, Lord La Warr, by Henry VIII. The fair days are Lady-day and July 4. The same grant received a further confirmation from Charles I. in 1629, in the charter by which it was constituted a borough town, with a mayor and twelve aldermen. Two courts are held; one for the borough, and another for the tything or foreign, and they have separate constables.

The clothing manufacture, which once flourished here, has long been on the decline, but the lower classes are still employed in spinning for the clothiers of other places.

The old market house has been lately taken down, and rebuilt in a more convenient situation.

Humphry the chamberlain held Wichen at the time of the general survey. John Earl of Gloucester, brother to Richard I. gave the manor to John La Warr, and confirmed it to him, on his coming to the throne. In this family it continued till the year 1618, more than four centuries. Thomas, Lord de la Warr, the last of the family, and the eleventh Baron, died on his return from Virginia, at sea, in 1618. The manor was afterwards purchased

by Sir Robert Ducie, from whom it has descended in the same way as Tortworth (232). More than a third of the whole parish is appendant to the manor.

BAGSTONE, supposed to have given name to the hundred, as it is mentioned in Domesday, under the appellation of *Bachestane*, but now comprized in the hundreds of Thornbury and Grumbaldsash, is a hamlet, and was once a manor belonging to Kingswood abbey. Matthew Hale, Esq. was lord of it at the beginning of the last century.

WESTEND is situate on the west side of the parish. Matthew A'Deane has a good house here, which was the property and residence of William Springett, Esq. deceased (273).

The *Pool-house*, late the property of Mr. Jobbins, now of Mrs. Haynes, wife of Richard Haynes, Esq. of Wick (297), was built in 1496, by Richard Woolworth, a clothier, since which time it has not undergone any external alteration. At the east end, within a plain square Gothic niche, is a rude figure of John the Baptist, according to some⁶⁸, carved in stone, holding a book in his left hand. Over him is an inscription, in black letter,—“ SCTE. JOHES. BAPTISTA OR**;” and under,—“ IN YE YEAR OF OURE LORDE GOD MCCCCIIII:” score, and,—“ XVI. TRENITE MONDAY, XXII DAY OF MAY.” There is also a figure of an angel, holding a shield, whereon are the initials of the owner’s name, “ R. W.” and his cloth-mark. In an upper chamber is a window, with painted glass, and a rebus of his name, formed by the last syllable joined to a fleece of wool. Others have the names of the months, in black letter.

This passage of country, beginning at Cromhall, and extending to Sodbury, lies on a basis of ponderous stone,

which, from its colour, has usually been called White Lays. It calcines to a fine white lime. Calamine stone and lead-ore have also been found here.

Alexander Hosea established a free grammar school here in 1684, and endowed it with a house in Gray's Inn lane, Holborn, London. He gave 600*l.* for building a house for the master, in which he lives, and receives 28*l.* per annum. There is another free school for teaching to read, with a salary of 10*l.* per annum, and a house for the master. The founder was originally apprenticed to a weaver, and acquired a large fortune in London.

The corporation are trustees to both schools, and appoint the masters, with the approbation of the burgesses.

Twenty-seven freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 1000—850—764. Houses inhab. 157.

The benefice is a rectory, in Hawkesbury deanery. Thomas Cook, L L. B. is patron and incumbent.

The advowson formerly belonged to the manor, but was sold from it by one of the Ducie family, and passed through Springett and Chester to the present proprietor.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a handsome building, situate on an eminence, and consists of a nave and north aisle, and well proportioned tower at the west end; Woolworth, before mentioned, is said to have built the church.

In P. N. tax. the church of Wykewar, 8*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

In the King's books, 18*l.*

Lower Part.

CCLXXXIV. ACTON TURVILLE, *anciently* ACHETONE.

Is a small parish on the confines of Wiltshire, five miles E. from Ch. Sodbury, and twenty-eight from Gloucester, s. The soil in general is a light stone-brash, and about two-thirds of it are in arable. In some parts it is a deep clay. The whole parish contains 700 acres.

The name of Turville was added to distinguish it from Iron Acton, and is a contraction of Turberville, an early proprietor.

In the middle of the village stands a small antique stone building, which was formerly a sanctuary⁶⁹, dedicated to St. Margaret, and supposed to have been built by one of our Saxon kings. It is now converted into a dwelling-house.

Domesday records this manor as held by Ernulphus, and soon after the conquest it came to the Turvilles or Turbervilles. From Richard Earl of Arundel, 1302; John de la Rivere, 1315; Sir John Drayton, 1418; and William St. Loe, 1560; it came to the Earl of Shrewsbury, 1608; afterwards to Henry Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle, who granted it to Sir John Top, from whom it descended to Sir John Top, late of Tormarton, and afterwards came to — Hungerford, Esq. by marriage with one of his daughters, from whose son, John Peach Hungerford, Esq. it has lately been transferred to the Duke of Beaufort, who is now lord of the manor, with nearly the property of the whole parish.

A fair is annually kept here on the first Friday in Aug.

Six freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 80—90—156. Houses inhabited, 38.

The benefice is a vicarage, in Hawkesbury deanery, united to Tormarton in 1344, and was formerly in the patronage of the rector of Tormarton, but Nathaniel Castleton, Esq. presented the Rev. Newdigate Pointz, LL. B. the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is small, consisting of one aisle, and a low spire in the middle. Service is performed in it once a month, and marriages are celebrated at Tormarton.

In P. N. tax. the church of Acton Turbervell, 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

In the King's books (discharged) 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

CCLXXXV. DODINGTON, *anciently* DODINTONE,

Is three miles s. e. from Sodbury, and twenty-eight from Gloucester s. The soil in the lower parts is clayey, but becomes lighter on the more elevated lands. Sixty acres only of 1200 are under tillage in the parish.

The manor was given by the Conqueror to the Bishop of Constance, under whom Roger de Berkeley, of Dursley, and his descendants, held it for many years. In 1403, it passed by marriage into the family of De Cantilupe; and in 1473, by similar means, to Thomas Wekys, whose descendants had the possession of it till about the reign of Elizabeth, when it was sold to Giles Codrington, who was great grandson of Thomas, a younger son of Robert Codrington, of Didmarton. Samuel, the great great grandson of Giles, re-sold the manor to his kinsman, Christopher, son of the celebrated Christopher Codrington, Governor of the Leeward Islands. On his death, in 1702, he left it

by will to his relative, William Codrington, who was created a Baronet in 1721. He was succeeded in title and estate by the late Sir W. Codrington, and on his death, about 1790, the title descended to his son; but the manor and estates at Dodington, with other property, came by virtue of his will to Christopher Codrington, Esq. his nephew, the present lord of the manor.

One estate, belonging to Walter Long, Esq. which was formerly a parcel of the possessions of Keynsham abbey, is independent of the demesnes.

The ancient manor house, the residence of the family, was built by Robert Wekys, in 1557. The front was added in the reign of James I. A new house, near the old one, is now building, on a very spacious and elegant plan. The park and grounds are extensive, and judiciously disposed. The whole is seen from the great turnpike road leading down to Bath.

On the tops of the adjoining hills are the traces of a chain of *castra exploratoria*; and it is recorded by Leland, that bones were found inclosed in glass, near Dodington church, and pots finely embellished dug in the neighbouring fields. These posts were afterwards occupied by the Saxons, when they repelled the Danes landing at Bristol.

Edw. IV. rested his army here some days, when on his march towards Tewkesbury, where he totally destroyed the forces of the Lancastrian party.

The bee orchis (*orchis apifera*), and enchanter's nightshade (*circæa*), grow here.

This parish is in the jurisdiction of the honour of Gloucester.

No freeholder voted in 1776.

Population, 56—98—95. Houses inhabited, 12.

The benefice is rectorial, in Hawkesbury deanery, in the patronage of the lord of the manor, and Rich. Jones, A.M. is incumbent.

The old church, which was of small dimensions, and had a low tower at the west end, was taken down in 1801, and a new one, on modern principles, is nearly finished.

In P. N. tax. the church of Dodinton, 6*l*.

In the King's books, 5*l*. 6*s*. 1½*d*.

CCLXXXVI. DURHAM, DYRHAM, *anciently* DIRHAM,

Is five miles s. from Sodbury, and thirty-one nearly in the same direction from Gloucester, situated at the base of surrounding acclivities, from which issue the springs, the source of the Boyd.

The parish includes 2400 acres, the greatest proportion of which is in pasture. In some records the name is *Deorham*, Saxon for Deershome, as it is explained in Lye's Saxon Dictionary⁷⁰.

Soon after the conquest the manor was transferred from William the son of Widen to the barons of Newmarch, (*de novo Mercatu*) a family that came in with the Conqueror. On the death of James, baron of Newmarch and Deerham in 1199, the manor came by his will to Isabel, a coheir, wife of Ralph de Russel. In this knightly family (the ancestors of the Duke of Bedford, and Gorges of Somersetshire and Herefordshire) it descended to Sir Maurice Russel, who dying in 1401 left the manor in moiety to his two daughters, Margaret, wife of Sir Gilbert Dennis, and Isabel, of Sir John Drayton; the former purchased the whole, and his descendants enjoyed it till Sir Walter Dennis joining with his eldest son, Richard, sold the manor in 1571 to George Winter, Esq. brother of Sir

W. Winter, of Lydney (224). Here they resided in splendor till the death of John Winter in 1668, when William Blathwayte, Esq. descended from a family in Cumberland, came to the possession of the manor and estates in right of his wife, daughter of John Winter. His grandson, William Blathwayte, Esq. is now lord of the manor of Durham and Hinton.

The manerial house was built by William Blathwayte, Esq. Secretary at War and of State in the reign of Will. III. on the scite of the old house belonging to the Dennis's; it was completed in 1698, from a design of William Tolman, who conducted the whole at an immense expence. It consists of two fronts, the principal of which extends 130 feet. The base is rustic, the windows are decorated with alternate pediments, and the cornice finished with trophies, urns, and other ornaments in profusion. The gardens were formerly laid out agreeably to the taste which was brought in with William at the revolution, but have since been altered in the modern style. The park, including 500 acres, was first inclosed by Sir William Dennis, one of the Esquires of the Body to Hen. VIII. by licence of that King, and is well planted.

HINTON is a hamlet about a mile from the church.

This manor anciently belonged to the family of De la Riviere, or De Ripariis, of whom it was purchased by the Russels, and annexed to the demesnes. The co-heirs of Sir Maurice Russel sold a principal estate to Nicholas Stanshaw, whose heir re-sold it to Thomas White, Esq. who was mayor of Bristol in 1530. He gave it, at that time producing 22*l.* 12*s.* a year, to exempt Severn vessels from the customs of the port of Bristol, and other charitable purposes.

A bloody battle was fought in this parish between the Britons and Saxons in 599, in which the Britons were vanquished, and the cities of Gloucester, Cirencester, and Bath surrendered to the conquerors, with the country about them.

On *Hinton-hill* is an encampment inclosing at least twenty acres of ground, supposed to have been occupied by the Saxons at the time of this engagement.

Two freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 270—350—437. Houses inhabited, 82.

The benefice is a rectory, in Hawkesbury deanery, the patronage of which has always been attached to the manor; George William Blathwayte, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is said to have been built by Sir Maurice Russel, before 1401. The style of architecture favours the tradition. It consists of a nave, two aisles, and an embattled tower of regular Gothic. In 1520, Sir William Dennis and Anne his wife founded a chantry gild, and erected and prepared the south aisle for the reception of its service. The method of its foundation, and the statutes are still extant.

In P. N. tax. in the deanery of Button, the church of Derhm, 10*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

In the King's books, 14*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*

CCLXXXVII. SODBURY (CHIPPING), *anciently*
SOPEBERIE,

Is a small parish, containing only 90 acres, and market town, twelve miles N. from Bristol, and thirty S. from Gloucester, situate at the foot of the great Howby hill, a continuation of that chain which extends from north to south through the county. The basis of this district is

lime-stone, and the soil is therefore in general shallow, and in many parts the rocks are bare. It is, however, productive of good pasture, which generally prevails.

This, and the two adjoining parishes of the same name, were so called from the *berie* or camp, which is found on the summit of the hill above Old Sodbury. Chipping distinguishes it as a market town (3), and was first used in the reign of Hen. III. on the establishment of its market. The town consists of one long street, has a few good houses, and is the great thoroughfare between the eastern part of the island and Bristol. It has a market on Thursday, and two yearly fairs, on Holy Thursday and the 24th of June. King Cha. II. granted to the inhabitants a charter of incorporation in 1681, whereby the government of the borough was lodged in a mayor, six aldermen, and twelve burgesses, with a high-steward, recorder, and town-clerk, and at the same time was granted the privilege of holding pleas of all manner of personal suits and debts under five pounds, arising within the borough. But in 1688, at the request of the inhabitants, from what cause is not now remembered, the charter was annulled by proclamation, and from that period the ancient government by a bailiff was revived, who is annually chosen by the lord of the manor out of three persons returned to him at the court-leet.

Two estates, called the *Stub Ridings* and *Meadow Riding*, were anciently granted by two lords of the manor, in the reigns of Hen. II. and John, to the bailiffs and bailiff-burgesses, for the following purposes:—The former, consisting of about 100 acres, is granted for summer-pasture, under certain regulations, for sixty-eight cow beasts, to as many persons as have been inhabitants of the town for fourteen years. The latter is divided into

eighty-one lots, besides two others, called the Bailiff's and Hayward's piece. Each of these, containing rather more than a statute acre, is held by a lessee for his own life and the life of his widow. Out of these estates the lord of the manor receives an annual payment of 5*l.* and the vicar of Old Sodbury 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* in lieu of tythes. The bailiff is entitled to 50*s.* yearly, for which, by ancient custom, he provides an ox and two barrels of ale, on St. Stephen's day, for the inhabitants.

In the sanguinary reign of Mary, John Pigott was burnt here, for his adherence to the Protestant religion. And it is recorded in Fox's Book of Martyrs, that while Doctor Whittington, the vicar-general of this part of the diocese, was attending the execution of a woman whom he had himself condemned for heresy, a bull, that had broken out of the town, rushed into the midst of the surrounding multitude, and, without attempting to injure any other person, ran furiously at the doctor, and having torn out his entrails, carried them off on his horns.

The manor was granted by the Conqueror to Odo, Earl of Champagne, whose grandson, William, granted the privilege of pasture-common in the Ridings before-mentioned, the original of which is now in existence. About the same time William Green, of Sodbury, gave Gaunt's Fields to the burgesses; and Jurdan Bishop, who was lord of Little Sodbury, granted them common of pasture for cattle in Dymershed and Norwood; which, in consequence of a dispute with the lord of the manor of Little Sodbury, in the reign of Edw. VI. was confirmed to them, on appeal to the Council of the Marshes. The manor, after having been held, in successive reigns, by the Earl of Albermarle, 1226; by the family of Weyland, in the reign of Edw. I.; by the Burnells, in Edw. III.; and

the Despencers, in the same reign ; passed into the family of Stanshaw, and continued with them during the reigns of Hen. IV. Hen. VI. and Edward IV. The family of Walsh was possessed of it in the time of Hen. VII. and from them it passed by purchase, in the reign of James I. to Thomas Stephens, Esq. Attorney General to Prince Henry and Charles (163). By marriage with Eliz. daughter and co-heiress of J. Stone, Esq. of London, he had three sons, the eldest of whom, Edward, succeeded in the manors of Sodbury, on the death of his father in 1613. He married Anne, daughter of — Crew, and left Sir Thomas, his son and heir, who married Catherine, daughter of — Combs, and was succeeded by his son Thomas, who married Anne, daughter of — Neale. From him the manor and estate descended to Edward Stephens, and at his death 1728 to Rob. Packer, Esq. as heir at law, through his mother, who was daughter of Richard Stephens, Esq. of Eastington. Robt. Packer married Mary, one of the daughters, and at length sole heiress of Sir Hen. Winchcombe, of Bucklebury, co. Berks, Bart. by whom he had four sons, who died without issue, and one daughter, Elizabeth, who, by marriage carried the manor and estates to David Hartley, M. D. From this marriage sprung two sons, Winchcombe Henry, and David, and one daughter. Winchcombe Henry Hartley, Esq. the eldest, succeeded, and dying a few years since, left a son and heir, now a minor, by Anne Blackwell, daughter of Samuel Blackwell, Esq. of Williamstrip (122). Anne Hartley, widow, David Hartley, Thos. Wm. Coke, Esq. and the Rev. Rich. Coxe, as trustees by the will of Winchcombe H. Hartley, Esq. are now lords of the manor.

A gild was founded in this borough, dedicated to St. Mary, in the reign of Hen. VI. of which John Glover was

the last incumbent. The lands belonging to it were granted to Miles Patrick 1549, by him to Richard Pate the same year, and 1558 to the burghers of Sodbury, part for a town-hall, and part for an alms-house.

In the rocks of limestone adjoining the town on the w. some veins of sulphate of strontian have been discovered (314).

There is probably as great a variety of fossils within the compass of four miles as can be found any where. On the descent of the hill from Cross Hands, the banks on each side are full of belemnites, nautilites of the ribbed sort, &c. At the entrance of the town, a little s. of the road, is a quarry of blue stone, composed of masses of bivalve shells.

Forty-five freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 650—800—1090. Houses inhabited, 217.

A free school is supported in this parish by the profits of lands lying in different parishes. To this 10*l.* annually was added by Mr. Robert Davis, of Little Sodbury, in 1680; and the late Dr. Hardwicke, of this town, and others, natives of it, were considerable benefactors towards providing a house for the master.

The benefice is a chapelry to Old Sodbury.

The church consists of a nave and two aisles of the same length. The tower which rises at the west end, is ornamented with pinnacles and battlements, and furnished with a clock and chimes and six bells. The battlements were taken down and rebuilt in 1795, at the expence of 200*l.*

In a window in the north aisle is the figure of St. George conquering the dragon.

In P. N. tax. the church of Great Sodbury, 10*l.*

The vicar's portion, 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

CCLXXXVIII. LITTLE SODBURY,

Is a small parish adjoining to the former, situate on the side of a hill, and extending to the summit of it. The soil is in general deep, extending over 900 acres, and the greater proportion in pasture.

On the edge of the hill is a very strong camp, in the form of an oblong square. The area is from E. to W. 200 yards, and in breadth from N. to S. 300 yards. On three sides it was defended by a double ditch, and double vallum, through which were three *portæ* or entrances. On the north side, a precipitous declivity formed a sufficient barrier, without artificial vallations. The interval or ditch between the elevations is twenty-two yards. With little difficulty, from the form, it may be ascertained to be Roman. Leland mentions it as having been occupied by Edward the Fourth's army a little before the battle of Tewkesbury.

The manor at the time of the survey was held by Hugo Maminot, under the bishop of Lisaux, in Normandy. Jurdan Bishop was proprietor in the reign of Hen. III. The Despencers in the reigns of Edw. II. and III. Rich. de Alerdine in 1388, from whom it passed to the family of Stanshawe, who held it to the time of Edw. IV. In the reign of Hen. VII. it was the property of Richard Forster, and then passed into the family of Walsh 1486, who continued the possession of it through several descents to the reign of Elizabeth. From the heir of this family it passed by purchase to Thomas Stephens, Esq. and descended in the same manner as Chipping Sodbury.

On the side of the hill, situate on a most commanding spot, is the manerial house, formerly the seat of the Stephens's, and prior to that of the Walsh's. In 1556, while

Mr. Walsh and his family were sitting at dinner, a dreadful storm came on, and the lightning entering in at the parlour door, instantly killed one of the children, and so much injured six others, with the unfortunate father, that they all died within two months after.

William Tyndale lived in this house with Sir John Walsh, as tutor to his children, in the time of Hen. VIII.

Two freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 90—115—89. Houses inhabited, 22.

The benefice is a rectory, in Hawkesbury deanery, in the patronage of the lord of the manor; and Richard Coxe, Clerk, is now incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Adeline, is a low building, with an aisle at the north-east side, belonging to the lord of the manor. There is no chancel, and the inhabitants bury at Old Sodbury, for which privilege ten shillings are paid to the vicar of that parish.

In the King's books, 7*l*.

CCLXXXIX. OLD SODBURY

Adjoins to Chipping Sodbury on the N. E. and lies partly on the hill, and partly in the vale. It contains 3000 acres, the greater part of which is in pasture.

This manor anciently belonged to the Earls of Gloucester and Hertford, and continued by descent in that family till the reign of Hen. VII. During this long succession, it passed by female heirs into the great families of Despencer and Beauchamp; and in the same way, and by the same arts as Kemmerton (67) and others, came at last to Hen. VII. By Hen. VIII. it was given to Sir John Walsh, and descended from him to the present family of the Hartleys, through the same proprietors as the two last manors.

Hampsteed, an estate in this parish, formerly belonged to the monastery of Bradenstoke, in Wiltshire. In P. N. tax. it is measured at one carucate, and valued at twelve shillings. After the suppression it was granted as the manor, grange, or farm of Hampsteed, to Sir Adrian Fortescue, 1558, and was sold by that family to Ed. Stephens, Esq. 1634. From Sir Thomas Stephens it passed to William Clutterbuck, 1675, by purchase, and in the same way to — Okey, then to the trustees of Henry Woolnough, Esq. from whom it passed, by marriage with his daughter and heiress, to John, afterwards Sir John Hugh Smith, Bart. of Long Ashton, co. Somerset. He died in 1802, and left this, with other estates, to his widow (294).

Lygrove is a considerable estate in this parish, incorporated now with the manerial property, but anciently distinct. A good old house, now in ruins, formerly stood in the midst of a park, and was the residence of Edward Stevens, Esq. at the beginning of last century. It is now vested in the Hartley family, as before.

Considerable estates belong to C. Codrington, Esq. Miss Dorney, Edmund Chapp, Esq. &c.

Eleven freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 200—200—687. Houses inhabited, 92.

The benefice is a vicarage, in Hawkesbury deanery, in the patronage of the chapter of Worcester, and Charles Neve, B. D. is incumbent.

The rectory was given in 1218 to the Benedictine monks of Worcester, by the bishop, and at the dissolution was granted to the chapter 1542, and confirmed to them 1609.

The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, consists of a nave and transept, with a low turret at the west end.

In the King's books, 14*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*

CCXC. TORMARTON, *anciently* TORMENTONE,

Is three miles from Marshfield N. and thirty-two S. from Gloucester. It is situated on high ground, but the soil is in general rather inclined to loam, and of 2400 acres, about 1390 are in pasture.

The common lands were inclosed, by act of parliament, in 1760.

Three turnpike roads lead through the parish: one from Gloucester and Cirencester to Bath, a second to Sodbury and Bristol, and the third from Christian Malford, co. Wilts, through Pucklechurch to Bristol.

There are found in the north fields stones about the size of pistol bullets, which being broken, look rusty like iron ore. It is thought by some that they are real bullets, which is not unlikely, as this was the scene of much fighting during the rebellion.

Richard Legate held the manor of Tormarton in the time of the Conqueror. In the reign of Ed. III. it belonged, with other manors in the county, to the Willingtons, under whom as chief lords, the family of de la Riviere, or de Ripariis were proprietors from the reign of Hen. III. to Hen. VI. when by marriage of Isabel, the heiress general, the manors and estates passed to the family of St. Loe, by whom they were held till Elizabeth, daughter, and at length heiress of John Hardwicke, of Hardwicke, co. Derby, by marriage with Sir W. St. Loe, took it out of that family, and by second marriage with Sir William Cavendish, of Chatsworth, in the same county, had the inheritance of this estate settled upon her, which on her fourth marriage passed to George Earl of Shrewsbury, whose son Gilbert was lord of the manor in 1608. The Marquis of Newcastle afterwards purchased this manor,

and resold it to Sir Francis Top, Bart. an ancient Wiltshire family, whose son, Sir John, resided here in an old mansion-house near the church, a great part of which was destroyed in the civil wars, but the ruins of a stately porter's lodge were to be seen the beginning of last century.

Sir John Top left two daughters, and by marriage with one of them the manor and estates came to ——— Hungerford, Esq. whose son, John Peach Hungerford, Esq. of Dingley hall, in the county of Northampton, has lately transferred them by purchase to the Duke of Beaufort, who is lord of the manor, and proprietor of nearly the whole parish.

In P. N. tax. the prior of Bradenstoke, in Wiltshire, is taxed for two carucates of land, value twenty shillings, which at the suppression were granted to John Pope.

The record of Atkyns relative to the property which he supposes the priory of Bonhommes, at Eddington, co. Wilts, to have had in this manor, probably belongs to Farmington, which retained the name of Tormentone for some time after the period of the foundation of that priory (135).

Three freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 130—207—225. Houses inhab. 43.

The benefice is a rectory, in Hawkesbury deanery, in the patronage of Nath. Castleton, Esq. and Newdigate Poyntz, M. A. is incumbent.

The advowson was in very early times appropriated to the abbey of Malmsbury, by the Bishop of Winchester.

Ninety-five acres belong to the glebe.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, has an aisle on the south, and a low embattled tower on the west end. Sir John de la Riviere is supposed to have been the founder of

the church about the 14th century, and the style of architecture is of that age. In Atkyns's time there was an effigy of him in the chancel, with the model of the church in his hand, but the brass plates are now lost.

In P. N. tax. the church of Tormacton, in the deanery of Button, 10*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* In the King's books, 27*l.*

CCXCI. WAPLEY, *anciently* WAPELIE, with
CODRINGTON,

Is three miles s. w. from Sodbury, and thirty-two s. from Gloucester. The soil is generally of clay, and applied to pasture. It contains 2000 acres.

Wapelite is described in Domesday as a member of the manor of Betune, in Swinheve hundred, and parcel of the king's demesnes. Two estates are also recorded: one belonging to the Bishop of St. Laud, in Constance, containing one hide; another held by Radulph, brother of Roger de Berchelai, of one hide; both in Polerecerce hundred.

Hen. II. granted the manors of Wapley and Codrington to Radulph, son of Stephen, who immediately gave them to the abbey of Stanley, in the diocese of Salisbury.

In P. N. tax. 1292, the same abbey is taxed at seven carucates, value 20*s.* in Cuderington, with other revenues there, to the annual amount of 13*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*

In 1455, the Abbot, by licence of the crown, alienated the manor, with the reserved yearly rent of 11*l.* to John de Codrington, which rent is now paid to the crown. The manor continued in the same name and family till it passed, by marriage with Jane, daughter and heiress of Col. John Codrington, of Wraxall, co. Somerset, to Sir Richard Bamfylde, Bart. He died in 1776; and Sir

Charles Bamfylde, his son and heir, is now lord of the manor, with a large property.

CODRINGTON is a hamlet of considerable extent, and gave name to the family, who were resident here many years. In P. N. tax. 1292, the abbey of Stanley, co. of Wilts, was taxed for seven carucates of land in Cuderington, and the Abbot of St. Augustine's, in Bristol, for one. After some dispute between these two abbies, about 1290, or perhaps later, the former had permission to build a chapel in this hamlet, for the sole use of the Grange at Cotherington. The chapel is now standing at Codrington-court, but converted to other uses. In the E. window is a good deal of stained glass, and on one pane are the letters "DUS III." which seem to refer to the reign of Edw. III. The cieling is curiously formed, and in good preservation. A bell was hanging over the part where the nave and chancel seem to have been separated, in the memory of an old man, who has not long been dead. Under the E. window is a stone table, which has the appearance of a tomb, but evidently a table which served for the altar. The window is painted, and in the style of the fourteenth century.

John Sloper was lord of the manor, and dying in 1550, left an only daughter, who, by marriage with Simon Codrington, ancestor to Robert Codrington, of Didmarton, carried it into that family, and from them to the Bamfylde as before.

Mouswell. Sir F. Roe charged an estate which he held here, with 25*l.* per annum, to Cirencester, for apprenticing out poor boys.

The property not attached to the manor is much subdivided, but the principal estates belong to Moses Higgs, Gent. John Parker, Mrs. Oseland, &c.

Two freeholders polled in 1776.

Population, 180—200—258. Houses inhabited, 39.

The benefice is a vicarage, in Hawkesbury deanery. The advowson originally belonged to St. Augustine's abbey, and at the dissolution was granted to the chapter of Bristol. This, together with the impropriation, is in lease to the Bamfylde family. Edmund Willes, clerk, is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is a small building, with an aisle on the s. side, anciently the dormitory of the Codringtons. Of whom John Codrington, Esq. is recorded on a monumental tablet against the wall to have died at the age of 111, A. D. 1475.

In P. N. tax. in the deanery of Button, the church of Wappeleye, 7*l.* 6*s.*

In the King's books (discharged) 7*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*

CCXCII. WEST LITTLETON,

Is a small parish, two miles N. W. from Marshfield, and thirty-one s. from Gloucester. It was formerly a tything in the adjacent parish of Tormarton, nor is it exactly known when it first was invested with parochial rights. The soil is generally of a light stone-brash, and applied to tillage. The whole does not exceed 1800 acres.

The additional name was given it by way of distinction from Littleton near it, in Wiltshire, and another on the Severn.

The manor was included in Tormarton at the general survey, and is first mentioned as distinct from it in 1263, when Richard de Clare, Earl of Gloucester held it. The family of De la Riviere, Willingtons, and St. Loes, successively were proprietors. Geo. Talbot, Earl of Shrews-

bury, was seized of it, in right of his wife Elizabeth, widow of Sir William St. Loe, in 1608⁷¹. They having no issue, joined in conveying this manor to William Cavendish, Earl of Newcastle, who sold it to the families of Francombe, Fisher, and Osborn. The Duke of Beaufort is lord of the manor, with some property.

The principal estates are vested in William Blathwayte, Esq. Mr. West, Mr. W. Osborn, &c.

Six freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 44—67—100. Houses inhabited, 17.

The benefice is a chapelry, in Tormarton, in Hawkesbury deanery.

The church is a small building, consisting of a nave and low spire in the middle, of octangular form.

IX. PUCKLECHURCH HUNDRED.

CCXCIII. ASTON, *or* COLD ASHTON, *anciently* ESCETONE,

Is three miles w. from Marshfield, and thirty-four s. from Gloucester. The soil, extending over 2016 acres, is various; in some parts clay, in others sand, and in others stony; and is nearly equally divided between pasture and tillage.

There seems little doubt concerning the etymology of this place. Easton evidently implies an easterly situation, but whether it referred to its being the most easterly

town in the hundred, or merely east of the fortified post at Deinton, must be left to conjecture. The high and exposed situation of the village, no doubt, suggested the additional name. Five springs, viz. Hameswell, Bridewell, Romewell, Clintonswell, and another large one rising in Monkwood, empty their united streams into the Lower Avon.

In the fields are found stones resembling the bill of a duck, something rounder than muscle-shells, and others of a serpentine form. The subterraneous cavity mentioned by Atkyns, with tunnels ascending to the surface of the earth, and extending a mile in length, and to a breadth not ascertained, has now no entrance, nor any mode of access, by which either the measurement or design of it might be discovered.

Sir Bevil Granville, who was mortally wounded at the battle of Landsdown, was brought to the parsonage-house of this parish, and there died.

This manor belonged to the church of Bath prior to the general survey, and continued with it until the dissolution; after which, both the manor and several woods in it, were granted to Sir Walter Dennis, 1541. The family of Stratford conveyed it, in the reign of Elizabeth, to Pipwell, alderman of Bristol, whose grandson, John, son of Michael, sold it to Mr. Gunning, mayor and alderman of Bristol. Sir Robert, his son, dying without issue, his daughter carried it by marriage to Sir T. Langton, and Wm. Gore Langton, Esq. is now lord of the manor(300).

Lilliput, near Landsdown Monument, is the property of — Bush, Esq.

HAMLET. HAMESWELL is a hamlet formerly belonging to the priory of Bath, afterwards the property of the Pipwells, and now of Thomas Whittington, Esq. whose

ancestors have been in possession of it more than a century. They were originally descended from the Whittingtons of Pauntley. The mansion house is large and handsome⁷².

Turner's Court is an old house, anciently belonging to the family of Stroud, but now to John Gunning, Esq.

Four freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 142—213—224. Houses inhabited, 39.

The benefice is a rectory, in Hawkesbury deanery, formerly in Bitton deanery, in the patronage of Thomas Whittington, Esq. of Hameswell, and John Whittington, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is spacious and handsome, consisting of a nave and south aisle, with an embattled tower, ornamented with pinnacles, at the west end: the roof is flat. This church and parsonage-house were built in 1509, by Thomas Key, rector of the parish, as appears from the images of two angels carved in stone, from whose breasts hangs a label of stone; on one, "x MARTII," on the other, "1509."

CCXCIV. PUCKLECHURCH, *anciently* PULCRECERCE,

Is seven miles w. from Marsfield, and thirty-four s. w. from Gloucester. The soil is chiefly a stiff clay, and applied to pasture, in the proportion of 1300 acres out of 1400, which the parish contains.

The name is said to be taken from the *fair church*, which stood here, but of that no vestiges now remain; the present church being probably the third that has been built here since it became a parish.

Camden calls this village *Villa Regia*, because it had been the residence of some of the Saxon kings, and a

house on a rising ground, in the way to Durham, is said to be built on the very scite of the ancient palace. The ruins of great buildings were to be seen in the time of Atkyns, and there are now appearances of heaps of stones and rubbish, just covered, under the surface of the ground. History records the death of King Edmund here in 946, by the hand of one Leolf, a notorious robber, who had been banished for his villainies, and had the assurance to seat himself at one of the tables in the hall where the king was at dinner. In a scuffle with Leon, the king's sewer, who made an attempt to apprehend him, the king interposed, and received a stab in his breast with a dagger from the hand of Leolf, who is said to have made his escape. A market was formerly held here, but has long since been disused.

A great abundance of coal is dug here, and the poor have some employment in the manufacture of felt hats. A blue clay stone is also dug here, which takes a good polish, but has nothing unusual to distinguish it from others of the same nature.

King Edmund was buried at Glastonbury, and the manor was immediately given to that abbey, which at this time included Westerleigh, and Abson and Wick. In 1205 the monks of Glastonbury quitted their right to these manors to the bishopric of Bath and Wells, on condition that Joceline the bishop would restore to them the election of their own abbot. They remained with the see of Bath and Wells, till Edw. VI. took them, with Westerleigh and others, in exchange, and granted the management of them to Sir Nicholas Poyntz. They were afterwards, in 1554, granted to William, Earl of Pembroke, with an exception of the lands only, called Pucklechurch Park; from whom they passed, by sale, to Sir Maurice Dennys, knt.

and from him to the family of Codrington, who afterwards sold them to another branch of the Dennys's. From them they went, by sale, to Mr. W. Halliday, and by marriage with his daughter, to Edward Hungerford, Esq. From this family they passed, by marriage with an heiress, to Robert Sutton, Lord Lexington, whose only daughter was married to John Manners, Duke of Rutland; from whom, in 1717, they were transferred, by purchase, to Sir Edw. Bouverie, of Longford Castle, co. Wilts; and from him, by will, to his brother Jacob, Viscount Folkstone, grandfather of Jacob Pleydell Bouverie, Earl of Radnor, the present lord of the hundred and manor of Pucklechurch.

Park Manor, was excepted out of the exchange made in 1554, as before observed. It was first granted to Sir W. Herbert, afterwards to Sir Nicholas Poyntz in 1560, and finally came into the family of the Whitmores, of Slaughter, in whose possession it still continues; and (96) Geo. Whitmore, Esq. is proprietor of the manor.

The old house and estate formerly belonging to William Dennis, Esq. was sold by his daughter and coheir, Mrs. Mary Butler, to Henry Woolnough, Esq. whose sole daughter by marriage carried it to John Hugh Smyth, Esq. late Sir John, eldest son of Sir Jarrit Smyth, Bart. to whose title and estates he succeeded, and dying in April, 1802, left his lady in possession of the family property in this parish (319).

Terry Estate, belonged to the late Thomas Hathway, Esq. and is now vested in his widow. It is held on lives under the manor.

Four freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 250—460—542. Houses inhabited, 121.

The benefice is a vicarage, in Hawkesbury deanery, to which Westerleigh and Abston are annexed.

The chapter of Wells have held the advowson and impropriation since the grant of Ralph Ergam, Bishop of Bath, in 1388. Walter Swayne, M. A. is incumbent.

Fifty acres belong to the glebe.

The church, dedicated to St. Thomas a Becket, is a large structure, consisting of a nave and north aisle, with an embattled and pinnacled tower at the west end. The separating arches are pointed, and resting on plain octagon pillars. The tower is remarkably plain and unornamented; except the north door, which is early Norman, the whole structure may be referred to the latter end of the 14th century.

In P. N. tax. the Bishop of Bath holds at Pokelchurch of penny rent ten pounds, and three carucates of land, each carucate worth twenty-four shillings.

In the deanery of Button, the church of Pokelchurch, 33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

The portion of the sacrist of Glastonb. 2*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*

In the King's books, 14*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

CCXCV. SYSTON, *anciently* SISTONE,

Is seven miles N. E. from Bristol, and thirty-six s. from Gloucester. The soil, extending over 1700 acres, is generally a deep loam or clay, and chiefly in pasture.

The manor originally belonged to Roger de Berkeley, and passed through the families of Serlo, Waleran, and Corbet; by marriage with a coheiress of Sir Peter Corbet, it came into the family of Dennis, in the reign of Ed. III. who held till the reign of Elizabeth. Henry Billingsley, Esq. was lord of the manor in 1608. It was vested in Samuel Trotman, Esq. at the beginning of last century, from whom it descended to Thomas Trotman, Esq. whose

son, —— Trotman, dying, the manor came to Fiennes Trotman, Esq. a collateral branch of the family. He is now lord of the manor, and proprietor of large estates.

Syston House, the old mansion of the Dennis's, and now the residence of the Trotman family, is a very fine unaltered specimen of the style of architecture in the time of Elizabeth.

Moon's Court, or *Mound's Court*, was an ancient seat belonging to the Stranges, who resided there several centuries. At this place Catherine Parr, Queen of Hen. VIII. kept her court for many days on her return from Bath and Bristol. It is now demolished, but the estate belongs to the manor.

This parish was within the forest of Kingswood, and abounds with coal. Dr. Parsons in his MSS. mentions, that at a place called *Berry*, there had been discovered a vein of tin ore, intermixed with grains of silver, but no memory of the circumstance remains among the inhabitants.

HAMLETS.—1. WARMLEY. At this place are carried on brass-works on an extensive scale.

2. BREACH YATE lies partly in this, and partly in Abson and Wick.

Twelve freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 450— —, —856. Houses inhabited, 159.

The benefice is a rectory, in Hawkesbury deanery, formerly in Bitton deanery, in the patronage of the lord of the manor, and Christopher Haynes, M. A. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Anne, the mother of the Blessed Virgin, is small, and had a low flat tower, which was taken down and rebuilt by the present Fiennes Trotman, Esq. a few years since, in a neat style, with open parapets, and plain pinnacles.

There were formerly two other churches in this parish: one dedicated to St. Bartholomew, the other to St. Cuthbert, and the feast days of all the tutelary saints are observed by the inhabitants.

In P. N. tax. the church of Siston, 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

In the King's books, 5*l.* 14*s.* 4½*d.*

CCXCVI. WESTERLEIGH, *see 352*

Is a large parish, three miles s. from Chipping Sodbury, and ten N. E. from Bristol. The soil is generally of a deep clay, in some parts of a red colour, and chiefly in pasture. A large tract of waste common remains uninclosed. The whole parish contains 4100 acres, and the greater part is in pasture.

The name signifies the *ley*, or *up-hill pasture*, west of the principal place, which was Pucklechurch.

Westerleigh was anciently a member of the extensive manor of Pucklechurch; as a part of which it was given to the church of Glastonbury, and passed through the same revolutions, till it was sold by Nicholas Poyntz to John Roberts, alderman of Bristol, who was lord of the manor in 1608, as was Thomas Roberts, Esq. at the time of his death, 1673. Sir Samuel Astry, knt. died possessed of it in 1704, and on the death of his widow, the manor descended to his three daughters, co-heiresses; Elizabeth, wife of Sir John Smyth, of Long Ashton, co. Somerset, Bart.; Diana, wife of Richard Orlebar, Esq. and Arabella, afterwards married to Charles William, Earl of Suffolk, whom she survived, and bequeathed her share to her elder sister. Sir John Smyth, her nephew, sold a moiety of that share to the heirs of Edward Colston, Esq. who had before purchased Orlebar's partition. A moiety

was then in Sir John Smyth, whose three sisters and co-heirs sold it to Sir Jarrit Smyth, Bart. who married Florence, one of the co-heirs; and the other moiety descended to the two daughters and co-heirs of Thos. Edwards, Esq. of Filkins, co. Oxf. one of whom was married to Lord Middleton, the other to Alexander Ready, Esq. who afterwards took the name of Colston, and died 1775. Sir Hugh Smyth, son of the late Thomas Smyth, Esq. of Stapleton, is now owner of one moiety, and the other belongs to Henry Lord Middleton, and Edward F. Colston, Esq. son of Alexander Colston, Esq. grandson of the former.

Very extensive coalworks are carried on, under the direction of the lords of the manor, in various places, but particularly at Coalpit-Heath.

The coal in some pits lies near the surface. At Serridge it is within 12 fathom, or 60 feet. The strata dip to the east, and generally one foot in twenty-five. The deepest pits are 60 fathoms; the average is from 30 to 40. The veins vary in depth; some are five feet thick: on these 80 bushels are a man's labour per day; but on the shallower veins, which are from two to three feet thick, and are called the *holly-bush*, 60 bushels, or 30 heaves. The coal is generally small, and in burning has very much the property of the Newcastle. It entirely wastes, and leaves no cinder. A quarter, or eight bushels, weighing seven cwt. is sold at the pit's mouth for 2s. 6d.

HAMLETS. 1. NIBLEY; 2. MAYSHILL; 3. HENVILD; 4. WOTTON'S-END; 5. COALPIT-HEATH; 6. KENDALSHIRE.

The whole, or nearly so, of the parish, is either in immediate possession of, or held by lease under, the lords of the manor.

The turnpike road from Sodbury to Bristol passes through Nibley, Mayshill, Coalpit-Heath, and Kendalshire.

On Westerleigh Heath is found the flowering fern (*osmunda regalis*.)

Four freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 400—930—1582. Houses inhabited, 235.

The benefice is annexed to Pucklechurch, to the vicar of which a mortuary of 10s. is due from the executors of all householders who die in this parish worth 40*l*.

The church is spacious, and consists of a nave and s. aisle, with a lofty tower at the w. end, ornamented with handsome battlements of open lace-work, and ten pinnacles, not finished. Grotesque figures are placed for spouts; and at the end of the nave is a turret for a saint's bell. The pulpit is of stone, elegantly supported on a single pillar. In the chancel is a recess, of tabernacle-work, where was probably placed the image of St. James, the patron saint. The separating arches are pointed, and the pillars plain octagon. The church exhibits the architecture of the early part of the Tudor æra; the windows being, with few exceptions, finished in the square Gothic style.

Westerleigh was not a separate parish, nor had it any church, till the fourteenth century, as it does not occur in P. N. tax.

CCXCVII. WICK AND ABSTON,

Is seven miles E. from Bristol, and thirty-four s. from Gloucester. The soil is principally red loam, and in some places inclining to sand. Pasture and meadow are in greater proportion than arable.

Abston is probably a contraction of *Abbot's Town*, and *Wick* signifies a hamlet.

The turnpike road from London to Bristol leads through Wick, and a portion of the London road over Landsdown to Bath.

This manor was included in Pucklechurch, and was in the hands of the same proprietors, till it passed to Sir Ed. Wintour, who was lord of it in 1608; and by his son Sir John, it was conveyed to Mr. Thomas Haynes, in 1665. Richard Haynes, his son, succeeded, from whom it descended to Thomas, the father of Richard Haynes, Esq. the present proprietor. The ancestors of this family were for many generations possessed of Southmead, in the parish of Westbury-upon-Trim; but since the purchase of this manor, they have resided in a large mansion house in Wick.

Three distinct streams, one rising at Pucklechurch, another at Dyrham, and the third at Toghill, fall into the Boyd here, which, by this union, furnishes water sufficient for six different mills in the course of two miles,—a rolling or splitting, a paper, an iron, a cotton, and two grist mills. The first is worked under the direction, and is the property, of Richard Haynes, Esq.

This parish is the most remarkable of any in this county for antique remains and natural curiosities.

The cliffs rise perpendicularly to the height of two hundred feet and upwards, and consist of a series of beds of lime-stone and petrosilex, alternating with each other, exhibiting towards the w. a vein of coal of fourteen inches thick, and another of lead, both formerly worked, with a mass of petrosilex on each side. In the centre of the glen is a bed of lime-stone, nearly six hundred yards broad, lying between two beds of petrosilex, of nearly the same

dimensions, all dipping to the N. W. in an angle of sixty feet with the plane of the horizon. In this are embedded lead ore, spathous iron ore, caulk or barytes, and that large species of anomia which abounds in the rocks of the Hotwells and Mendip. The division of petrosilex adjoining to this bed on the E. combines again with the lime rock on the road to Deynton, and at this union becomes a mill stone or pudding stone. By the side of the road nearer to Bristol, under the surface of the red soil, are sometimes found a great abundance of geodes or nodules, containing within them beautiful quartz chrystal, with calcareous dog-tooth spar. Belemnites, astroites, and serpentine stones, are frequent; and coal dug in great abundance.

In a field, called the *Chestles* or *Castles*, there were formerly three large stones, placed near together in a triangular form, and probably designed as memorials for some British chief: only one now remains.

Not far from this spot various Roman coins have been dug up, and in an adjacent field several bricks undoubtedly Roman; and from the urns, bricks, &c. this place has the appearance of having been a Roman pottery.

On the summit of the northern cliff is a camp, from its oblong form, decidedly Roman; it is defended on three sides by a broad ditch and double vallum, and contains more than twelve acres.

There are five hamlets in this parish. 1. BERDWICK, now written WICK, in which is the manor house.

2. HOLY BROOK, so called from a brook dedicated to the Holy Virgin.

3. CHURCHLEY, or *Churchaight*, so named from an ancient chapel, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, now in ruins.

4. **BRIDGE YATE**, or *Breach Yate*, adjoining to Siston parish.

5. **TOG-HILL**. Near to this are the remains of an old fortification and entrenchments. Here was fought one of the most memorable battles between the king and parliament during the civil war. The army of the king was drawn up under the command of Sir Ralph Hopton and Prince Maurice; the forces of the other party under Sir William Waller. The engagement was long and bloody, but terminated in favour of the royalists, with the loss, however, among others, of the brave Sir Beville Granville, who, on the falling of his horse, in addition to many wounds, received a mortal one from a pole axe (293). The titles of Earl of Bath and Viscount Lansdown were conferred on his son by Charles II. in compliment to the father; and in commemoration of the action, a handsome freestone monument was erected near the place where the event happened, with an appropriate inscription, recorded in Clarendon's history, where a full account is given of the battle.

Twenty-three freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 230—400—571. Houses inhab. 111.

The benefice is annexed to Pucklechurch.

The church, dedicated to St. James, consists of one aisle, with a handsome pinnacled tower, and stands in Abston.

This district had neither church nor parochial privileges till the fourteenth century, as it is not taken notice of in P. N. tax. The images and niches round the battlements, tabernacle work of the west door, &c. are the work of that period. The plain Saxon arch of the north door seems to be remains of a chapel of earlier date.

X. LANGLEY & SWINESHEAD HUNDRED.

CCXCVIII. ALVESTON, *anciently* ALVESTONE, or ALWESTAN,

Is situated on an eminence, eight miles and a half from Bristol, and twenty-six from Gloucester. The soil on the low grounds is mostly clay, but on the higher parts light and sandy. Pasture land prevails, but good crops of corn, particularly barley, are raised by tillage.

The turnpike-road between Gloucester and Bristol intersects this parish, over a limestone rock, which descends westerly towards the Severn, and another road, in a cross direction, to the Old Passage.

Domesday records Earl Harold as the ancient possessor of part of Alwestan, and the abbey of Bath of the other. When it was transferred from the abbey does not appear; but it seems to have been in the crown in the reign of Hen. III. who reserved the park here, when Kingswood was disafforested. The manor was soon after granted to the Fitzwarrens, and from them by marriage came to the family of Corbet, and in the same way to the Dennis's. Richard Dennis, a lineal descendant, sold it to Maurice Shephard 1577. From Richard Haughton, who had married a daughter of the last, it passed by sale to Robert Webb 1580, and then to Nicholas Veel, whose grandson Nicholas sold it to Edward Hill, Esq. from whom it passed in the same way to John Pinfold, Esq. who left it by will to Edward Hoskins, Esq. by whose son Lewis it was sold to

Samuel Peach Peach, Esq. but without landed property(303).

HAMLETS. 1. ALVESTON VILLAGE, in which the church stands, and near to this the remains of a large handsome house, with lofty and spacious rooms. The style of building is that of Elizabeth's reign. Annexed to this is a good estate, formerly the manerial, and at the beginning of the last century, belonging to Edward Hill, Esq. from whom it passed by purchase into the family of Sitwell, and Edward Sacheverell Sitwell, Esq. is the present proprietor (303) (268).

2. GROVESEND, is two miles from the church. Near to this are the remains of a large round encampment on the brow of the hill, called the Old Abbey, but it is not clear that any abbey ever stood near it, unless it be supposed that this portion of the parish was what belonged to the abbey of Bath at the time of the general survey. Upon opening a barrow near to this place in 1670, several stone coffins containing human bones were found. Each coffin seemed to consist of one solid stone, no appearance of cement being discoverable. From the form of the encampment it may be presumed to be of British origin.

A very old mansion in this hamlet, with a good estate, belonged to the family of Stephens, of Chevenage, but has lately passed by purchase to — Rolph, Esq.

Henry King, Esq. has a good modern house and estate here, well planted with fruit trees.

James Lackington, Esq. late an eminent bookseller in London, has a house here, in which he resides.

Philip Prothero, Esq. is a considerable proprietor.

3. ROW-URCOTE, or EARTHCOTE, or HERDICOT, lies about a mile w. from the church,

Ten freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 240—198—412. Houses inhabited, 71.

The benefice is annexed to Olveston.

The church, dedicated to St. Helen, is small, and neatly fitted up within, consisting of one aisle and a low tower, with battlements. The latter have been lately repaired. A turret for a saint's bell stands on the extremity of the nave next the chancel.

CCXCIX. BITTON, *anciently* BETUNE,

Lies at the southern extremity of the county, separated from Somersetshire by the Avon, six miles E. from Bristol, and thirty-eight s. w. from Gloucester. The soil in general consists of loam and strong clay, principally in pasture. The whole parish contains not less than 5500 acres, and the greater part lies in the old forest of Kingswood, which was disafforested in the reign of Hen. III. The river Boyd intersects this parish, and falls into the Avon. Hence the name is supposed to be, as it were, *Boyd town*.

Coal and iron-ore are found here in great abundance, and the pits for the former are sunk to a great depth.

At Conham, near the river, was lately established a manufactory called Gibbesium, from Dr. Gibbes, a respectable physician of Bath, for the speedy conversion of animal matter into spermaceti, on the principle of Fourcroy, the French chemist; and from the blood, horns, hoofs, and other parts of the animals which are not convertible, were made Prussian-blue, hartshorn, &c. but the design, from some causes, did not answer the necessary expences, and is now laid aside.

At Warmley is an extensive manufacture of pins, belonging to Messrs. Barratts and Co.

Atkyns mentions a kind of fierce vipers, about eighteen inches long, with great heads, large mouths, and copper-coloured backs, with yellow and dark spots, and their bellies of a bright yellow, marked with red and brown spots, being frequently seen on the banks of the Boyd. Whatever foundation there might have been for such persuasion at that time, it is certain that no animals of the viper kind are now to be found there in greater plenty, or of a fiercer nature, than in other places.

This manor, including Wapelie and Wintreborne, was part of the royal demesnes in the time of Edward the Confessor.

Domesday records Dons, one of the King's thanes, as the possessor of Betone. The family of d'Amavil held it by grant of Hen. II. till 15 Edw. I. when by marriage it passed to the Blounts, and continued in different branches till 1483, when an heiress carried it to Sir John Barr, and his daughter to Sir Thomas Newton. This family derive their pedigree from Howel ap Grono, Lord of Newton in Rouse. The family name was Cradock for many generations, till Sir Richard Cradock, Lord Chief Justice of England, on his marriage with Emma, daughter and co-heiress of Sir T. Perret, of Islington, changed his name to Newton. According to Leland, "he dwelled, or was born at Tre-neivrrth, (New-town,) in Powisland, and so was called (Newton) after that place." Sir John Newton, the last of this line, was buried in Bristol cathedral, among his ancestors. He entailed the manor and a large estate on Sir John Newton, co. Lincoln, with the baronetage. Michael Newton, Esq. is now lord of the manor.

Hillgrove, is the property of Mr. Thos. Smallcome.

Barr's Court, the ancient manerial house, mentioned by Camden, has long since been in ruins.

Highfield, is the seat of Archibald Drummond, Esq. with a good estate.

TYTHINGS AND HAMLETS. 1. HANHAM. The manor of Hanham Abbotts belonged to the abbey of Keynsham, and was granted in 1555 to Rowland Hayward; but Hanclif wood, and the lands belonging to it, were granted to John Fernham, 1577. The former, with a large estate, is now the property of Henry Creswicke, Esq.

Hanham-hall, is the property of James Emerson, Esq.

The *Grange*, once held by the priory of Farley, co. Wilts, and granted to Roger Langsford and Christopher Martin, in 1567, was the property of Chalres Bragge, Esq. but now of John Whittock, Esq.

Among the other proprietors are the names of Rock, Batty, and Cocking.

John Henderson, a young man of extraordinary abilities, was born here in 1757, died at Oxford Nov. 2, 1788, and was buried in St. George's church-yard(318). Dr. Tucker, the late very worthy dean of Gloucester, patronised him early in life.

In this hamlet is a small chapel, which is divided by low arches.

The Roman road from Bath is supposed by some to have passed here.

2. OLDLAND, is a large tything, mentioned in Domesday as belonging to the Bishop of Excestre, on whose death it seems to have reverted to the crown, and to have been regranted to the Amavils, and by marriage with one of the co-heiresses to have passed to Richard de la More, in whose descendants it continued till 1350; afterwards

it passed through several possessors to the family of Wikes.

Weston's Court, so called from its ancient possessors, in the reign of Hen. VI. was lately the estate of Mrs. Blake, afterwards of Dr. John Warren, Lord Bishop of Bangor; now of his representatives.

Oldland has a small chapel appendant on Bitton, with a right of sepulture.

3. UPTON, or UPTON CHEYNEY, and 4. BEACH and SWINFORD, are hamlets.

Beach-farm, is the property and residence of John Bush Beach, Esq.

Barr's Court, *Hanham*, *Oldland*, *Upton Cheney*, and *Beach*, are within the jurisdiction of the honour of Gloucester.

Eighty freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 1150—4634—4994. Houses inhab. 1053.

The benefice is a vicarage, in Hawkesbury deanery. annexed to the prebend of Bitton, in the collegiate church of Salisbury, and the prebendary is patron.

The impropriation, which is part of its endowment, is in lease to Thomas Edwards Freeman, Esq. of Batsford. John Adey Curtis, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, consists of a long spacious nave, probably as old as the conquest. *Lys. Et.* and a north aisle or chantry chapel, built by Sir John Barr, for many generations the dormitory of that and the Newton family. The tower is of light Gothic, erected in the 15th century, ornamented with battlements and pinnacles, and containing six bells.

In the north chapel are three stone stalls, with the piscina or drain, formerly used by the priest in celebrating mass. The rich oak foliage and other ornaments with

which they were decorated, were very prevalent at the latter end of the twelfth century and beginning of the thirteenth. The columns and other parts of these stalls correspond with the architecture of that age. *Lys. Etch.*

In P. N. tax. the church of Button, 26*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

In the King's books, 18*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*

CCC. DEYNTON or DOINTON, *anciently* DIDINGTON,

Is a small parish, eight miles E. from Bristol, and thirty-three s. from Gloucester. The soil is light and loamy, chiefly pasturage, with an inconsiderable proportion of tillage. The Boyd separates this parish from Abston, pursuing its course between rocks of a great perpendicular height, on each of which are fortifications and entrenchments. Lead ore is found here, but not in sufficient quantities to encourage the establishment of works. The chief employment of the poor is burning of lime, and the women and children spin woollen yarn.

This place was formerly in Pucklechurch hundred, and is so mentioned in Domesday as part of the possessions of the Bishop of Constance. The manor was afterwards in the Deintons, by whom it was sold to John de Tracy, 1278. After having continued in this family 300 years, it was sold to Mr. Arthur Player, and others, in the reign of Elizabeth. Early in the last century it belonged to the Langtons, and the present proprietor is William Gore Langton, Esq. who assumed the last name on his marriage with the heiress(293).

Bury, an ancient and exempted manor, belonged to the Tracys, was sold to the Stills, and again to Henry Hillman, Esq. on whose death, in January, 1803, the estates descended to Stephen Hillman, Esq. of Devizes, co. of

Wilts, who married the widow of the late Henry Hillman's son.

The family mansion is called the *Castle*, finely situated on an eminence on the banks of the Boyd, and commanding an extensive view towards Bristol.

Tracy Park Lodge, for many years the estate and residence of the Ridleys, afterwards of Frankham, is now vested in George Bush, Esq.

Twenty-three freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 200—340—303. Houses inhab. 70.

The benefice is a rectory, in Hawkesbury deanery, in the patronage of the crown, and Peter Gunning, D. D. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, consists of a nave, north aisle, and embatteled tower. The arches are low and pointed. The chancel and parsonage house were re-built by the late incumbent, T. Coker, A. M. and the nave has been lately lengthened and modernized.

This parish is not mentioned in P. N. tax.

In the King's books, 14*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*

CCCI. FRAMPTON COTTERELL, *anciently* FRANTONE,

Is five miles s. w. from Sodbury, and twenty-nine s. from Gloucester. The soil, including more than 1400 acres, is of a red grit, and principally in pasture.

The name is taken from the river Froome, which runs through the parish in its course to Bristol, where it forms part of the Quay, and falls into the Avon. *Cotel* was added by way of distinction, being the family name of an ancient proprietor.

The hat manufacture is carried on here, and supplies employment for a great many hands.

Walter Balistarius, who assumed that name from the office of bowman under the king, was proprietor of the manor at the time of the survey, and soon after the family of the Cotels, till 1245. Robert Walerond and his descendants held it till 1309. Afterwards the family of Willington (196) held it as of the honour of Wallingford till 1397, when the heiress carried the estate by marriage to John Wrath, or Wriothsesley, whose son dying without issue, 1412, Elizabeth and Isabel, his two daughters, were heiresses. Elizabeth and her husband, Sir W. Poulton, dying without issue, left the whole to Isabel, the widow of William Beaumont, whose heirs held it till 1505, when it was conveyed to the crown. The manor was afterwards granted to Giles Lord D'Aubeny, and on the death of his son, reverted to the crown. Edward Duke of Somerset was the next grantee, and on his attainder, John Basset, 1557. It was afterwards transferred to the Players, and William Player was lord of the manor at the beginning of last century, from whose son, Thomas Player, about 1750, it passed by descent to Charles Bragge, Esq. In 1788, Robert Tucker, Esq. became possessed of it by purchase from Charles Bragge, the son, with consent of his mother, and is now lord of the manor. No estate was at that time appendant to the manor.

TYTHINGS. 1. FRAMPTON. In this lies the principal estate, which was detached from the manor by Hen. VIII. and given to Sir John Seymour and Sir H. Seymour, to the latter of whom he bequeathed it. By marriage with Anne Seymour, a co-heir, Henry Symes, Esq. became possessed of a moiety, and purchased the remaining interest. He afterwards gave it in dower to Edward Bisse, Esq. on marriage with his second daughter. Their daughter Amy married Gabriel Hale, of Alderley, Esq. grand-

son of the Chief Justice, and was succeeded by Edward Bisse Hale, Esq. who died in 1785, and the estate was soon afterwards sold to William Southwell, Esq. By marriage with his only daughter, it passed to Sir Cecil Bishop, of Param, co. Sussex, and from him by purchase in 1802, to Robert Tucker, Esq. who is also possessed of other property in this parish to a large amount, and resides at Crossley-house, in Winterbourn(305).

The manerial house, called *Frampton Court*, is a very ancient building. Some parts of the interior are in the style of the 15th century. A large Gothic arch leads to a small room, which was probably the chapel, as a reading-desk, ornamented with elegant Gothic work, is now among the lumber. The principal parts were modernized by John Symes, who retired to this place from Poundisford, in the parish of Pitminster, co. Somerset, and died in 1661; or by his son Henry, who married Ann, daughter of Sir John Seymour, Knt. In the great parlour, and over the portal, are the arms of Seymour, Symes, and others.

Northwood House, with a considerable estate, was the property of Richard Bailey, Esq. late of Hambrook(305), and is now, by purchase, of Edmund Griffiths, Esq. who resides in it.

2. WICKWICK, which claims manerial rights, gave name to an ancient family. This was a portion of the estate granted to the Seymours, and came afterwards to the Kempses in the reign of Eliz. and by marriage, to Rob. Brown, Gent. whose descendant, Francis Brown, Esq. left two daughters; the eldest married John Daubeney, Esq. of Bristol, from whom it passed to George Daubeney, Esq. and from him to James Taylor, Esq. of Frenchay(305), by purchase.

On Mr. Tucker's estate are quarries of *grit* (or *pennant*) stone, of a very hard quality, and capable of resisting, without the least injury, continual exposure under all changes of the atmosphere.

Twenty-eight freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 300—393—1208. Houses inhabited, 226.

The benefice is a rectory, in Hawkesbury deanery, the advowson of which was formerly annexed to the manor. In 1744 Wm. Southwell, Esq. who had purchased the estate of the Symes's, presented on that claim, but it appearing that the right had descended in certain parts to the coheirs of Edw. Symes, Esq. and their representatives, in 1765 it was agreed, that the presentations should for the future be arranged in the following succession: 1. the Duke of Beaufort, by descent from Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Henry Symes, the wife of Richard Berkeley, Esq. of Stoke Giffard; 2. and 3. William Southwell, Esq. in right of Seymour, *by purchase from Ed. B. Hale, Esq.* 4. Robert Buxton, Esq. nephew of the late John Jacob, Esq. of Norton, co. Wilts, in right of Hooke, *whose mother was Susannah, the youngest daughter and coheir*; 5. Duke of Beaufort; 6. and 7. William Southwell, Esq.; 8. Robert Buxton, Esq.; 9. W. Southwell, Esq. The late incumbent, Philip Bliss, M. A. was presented by John Jacob, Esq. It is now vacant.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, consists of a nave and south aisle, with a tower, embattled and pinnacled, in which are niches for the effigies of saints. The whole is of the style of the middle centuries. The high altar was dedicated, in 1315, by William Maydenstone, Bishop of Worcester. The family of Acton, whose arms formerly were in the windows, were possessed of a mill

and eighty acres of land in this parish, and were probably contributors to this building.

In P. N. tax. the church of Frompton Cotele, 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

In the King's books, 11*l.* 16*s.* 0½*d.*

CCCII. LITTLETON-UPON-SEVERN, *anciently* LITELTONE,

Is a parish containing about 1000 acres, three miles w. from Thornbury, and twenty-six s. w. from Gloucester. It is bounded on the west by the Severn, in which the several proprietors of estates claim the right of fishery. The soil is generally marle, but in some places clay, and is employed principally in pasture. Some arable in common fields.

The manor anciently belonged to St. Mary of Malmsbury, and at the dissolution was granted, with the tythes of the demesnes, to Sir Richard Long, with reservation of a rent to the crown. It passed afterwards to Richard Hampden and his descendant. In 1608 it was the property of Ed. Felton, Esq.; and of William Hopton, Esq. of Cam and Berkeley, at the beginning of the last century. Sir Robert Cann, Bart. afterwards possessed it; it passed as parcel of his estates to Dame Catherine, on the death of Sir Henry Lippincott, Bart. of Stoke Bishop, her husband, during the minority of Sir Henry Cann Lippincott, Bart. who is now lord of the manor, with a considerable estate (303).

Other estates did belong to Thomas Prichard, late of Ross, but now sold out to different persons in small lots.

William Taylor, Gent. of Cote in Olveston parish, has a considerable estate.

Stock, *anciently* Estock, is a hamlet in this parish, particularly mentioned in Domesday, but a part of the abstract which Atkyns has given as belonging to the Bishop of St. Laud, will probably apply better to Stoke Bishop, a hamlet in Westbury-upon-Trim.

Seven freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 80—84—136. Houses inhabited, 21.

The benefice is a rectory in Bristol deanery and diocese, but archdeaconry of Gloucester. The abbey of Malmesbury had the advowson. From the family of Hawksworth, of Thornbury, it descended to Christopher Willoughby, Esq. by whom the present rector, William Trueman, clerk, was presented.

The church is a small building with a nave, south aisle, and slated tower.

In P. N. tax. the chapel of Littleton, 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

The abbot of Malmesbur. holds two caruc. and each caruc. is worth 40*s.*

In the King's books (discharged) 11*l.* 4*s.* 9½*d.*

CCCIH. OLVESTON,

Is ten miles N. of Bristol, and twenty-five S. W. of Gloucester. The soil, extending over 6300 acres, is a rich loamy clay, chiefly in pasture and meadow, with some orcharding, but on the elevated parts it inclines to a red grit, covering rocks of lime-stone, which, running in a south-west direction over Old-down, terminate here.

The *vervain*, or *herba sacra*, celebrated in a pamphlet by John Morley, Esq. as a specific for the King's evil, grows in the meadows.

This place and Alveston were probably one in ancient times, and as such are recorded in Domesday.

The manor of Olveston, with the rectory and advowson, were parcel of the possessions of the abbey of Bath, and continued so till the dissolution. It was then granted to Sir Ralph Sadleyr, 1547, and came by purchase to Sir Robert Cann, who was succeeded by his younger son Sir T. Cann, whose eldest son, Robert, came to the title of Baronet, but dying unmarried was succeeded by his brother William, town clerk of Bristol; his only son, Robert, dying without issue in 1765, the title became extinct, but the manor came to his nephew, Cann Jefferies, Esq. son of his daughter Elizabeth, married to Mr. Jefferies, of Bristol; he also dying without issue, the manor came to Henry, afterwards Sir Henry Lippincott, Bart. and is now the property of his son, Sir Henry Cann Lippincott, Bart. (302), with little landed property.

In P. N. tax. the prior of Bath holds at Olveston two caruc. of land, and each caruc. is worth 20s.

There was another estate which claimed manerial rights, called Alveston and Berwick, held by Roger Crook in 1327, and by Robert Green 1354.

Another manor was held by Edward Lord Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, which by his attainder coming to the crown, was granted to Thomas Henage, 1532, and afterwards to Sir John Walsh in 1547, whose grandson, Henry, was possessed of it in 1578.

TOCKINGTON is a large hamlet in this parish; in the general survey it is taxed under the name of Tochintune, at five hides, and in the reign of Hen. III. belonged to Sir Nicholas Poyntz, and continued in that family till Alice, the heir general, by marriage with Sir Edward Berkeley, carried it into that family, 1509. John Lawford, Esq. was lord at the beginning of last century. By marriage with a daughter of the Lawford's, (a widow of Mr. Goodyer), Mr.

Rayner became possessed of it, and sold it to the Rev. Mr. Degge, whose sister, Mrs. Wilmott, continued lady of the manor till her death, when her son, Edward Sacheverell Sitwell, Esq. succeeded.

Tockington has the privilege of two annual fairs, on the 9th of May, and 6th of December.

Samuel Peach Peach, Esq. has an estate in this hamlet, and a good house, where he resides.

The manor of Tockington Park belongs to Richard Llewellyn, Esq.

Ingst and *Upper Hazell* are the property of Richard Ward, Gent.

Walning belongs to Mr. W. Osborn.

Gredige and *Aukeley* are vested in Thomas Salmon, Esq.

Cote is a very considerable estate attached to the manor, and is assessed to the land-tax in aid of Thornbury.

In Lower Tockington a large property belongs to Thos. Masters, Esq. (268)

The Court-House, with a competent estate, was the property of Mr. Pardoe, who is lately dead. The pointed arch of the gateway, and battlemented wall in good preservation, refer the date of this building to a remote period.

Old-down is a beautiful and extensive down, whence the Severn is seen with peculiar advantage, and on a very extensive scale.

Haw belongs to the family of Turton.

There was formerly a church in Tockington, as appears from the following account in P. N. tax.—“*Portio abbis Scti. Augustin. in Ecclia. de Tokinton.*”

Fifty-three freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 240—588—1117. Houses inhabited, 202.

The benefice is annexed to Alveston; and the impropriation belongs to the chapter of Bristol.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, has a low pinnacled tower, on which a spire once stood, but was thrown down by lightning 1603. The chancel is wainscotted with oak, and the altar-piece and table are inclosed with neat circular rails.

In P. N. tax. the church of Olveston, 22*l*.

The portion of the prior of Bath, 2*l*. 6*s*.

In the King's books, 24*l*.

CCCIV. ROCKHAMPTON, *anciently* ROCHEMTUNE,

Is two miles N. from Thornbury, and twenty-two S. W. from Gloucester, bounded on the west by the Severn. The soil is deep and rich, chiefly in pasture and meadow; the latter of which being within reach of the water, is subject to inundations: the whole contains 1400 acres.

Osborn Giffard had the grant of Rockemптune manor, among others, from the Conqueror, for his services (148). Maurice, second son of Maurice Lord Berkeley, 1338, had the grant of it, and his family continued the proprietors, with a little interruption, till the reign of James I. Afterwards the Willoughbys were possessed of it, and Edward Hill, of Alveston, at the beginning of last century; from whom it passed to Pinfold and Hoskins, and by the last was sold to S. P. Peach, Esq. without landed property.

The principal proprietors are Matthew A'Deane, Esq. (273), John Cox, gent. Rev. Mr. Jones, &c.

NEWTON is a hamlet in this parish.

SHEPHARDINE is another hamlet, distant three miles W.

from the church. Here was formerly a chapel, but it has long since been converted to other uses, still, however, retaining the name of Shephardine Chapel. At this place was formerly a passage over the Severn, but long since disused. The propperly is in Lady Fust(271).

Seventeen freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 120—122—160. Houses inhabited, 26.

The benefice is a rectory, in Dursley deanery, in the patronage of William Davies, A. M. who is also incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Oswald, is small, consisting of a nave, with a tower pinnacled and embatteled at the west end. A staircase leads up to the rood-loft near the chancel.

In P. N. tax. the church of Rochmton. 6*l*.

In the King's books, 15*l*.

CCCV. WINTERBOURN, *anciently* WINTREBORNE,

Is a large parish, six miles distant from Bristol, and thirty s. from Gloucester. The soil is a reddish loam, and uncommonly productive both in pasture and tillage, but of the latter the proportion is 2970 of 4000 acres.

Two annual fairs, on the 29th of June and 18th of October, are held here. The village is intersected by the turnpike road that leads to Bristol from Wotton-under-edge, at a considerable distance from the church.

In Domesday this manor is joined with Wapelie, as members of the manor of Betune, and the whole constituted a part of the ancient demesnes of the crown before and after the general survey. Philip de Albeniaco died seized of this manor in 1216. Ralph de Wales in 1246. Jeffrey de Wrokshall and Ralph de Hadele, in right of their wives

co-heiresses, 1287. Thomas Lord Bradeston, of Bradeston, in the parish of Berkeley, in 1631; and the manor continued in that family and name till the reign of Elizabeth, when James Buck purchased it; and after four descents, it passed to the Browns, the last of whom died seized of it 1691. John Jones, Esq. was lord of the manor at the beginning of last century, from whom it descended to his son, Edward Jones. Upon his decease without issue male, it passed by marriage with his daughter to Thomas Sedgwick Whalley, clerk; and from him was purchased, in 1792, by Edmund Probyn, Esq. late of Newland (218), with the manors of Hambrook, Hampton, and Patchway (268), but with very little landed property. On his death, in 1801, the house and small property adjoining descended by will to William Perry, Esq. of Bristol, but the manors were sold to Edward Brice, Esq. of Frenchay, and Joseph Mason Cox, M. D. (319), who are now joint lords of the manor.

The greatest part of the parish was attached to the manor when first in possession of Mr. Whalley, which by him has been sold to different purchasers.

TYTHINGS or HAMLETS. 1. **WINTERBOURN**, in which the church stands. *Winterbourn-court*, adjoining the church, is the ancient manerial house. With a large estate, it was purchased of Mr. Whalley, by Thos. Smith, Esq. (319), and is now the property of Sir Hugh Smith, Bart. (312).

Crossley-house is the property and residence of Robert Tucker, Esq. (301), whose family have been seated here more than 300 years.

Warnage is an estate of considerable value, belonging to the same proprietor.

Stourden manor, within the manor of Winterbourn,

lately belonged to Sir Jarrit Smith, Bart. of Long Ashton, co. Som. by purchase of the co-heirs of Sir John Smith, Bart. of the same place; came, on his death, to John Smith, Esq. of Stapleton (319), and is now vested in Sir Hugh Smith, Bart. (312).

Stern-court, an old ruined building, belonged formerly to the family of Stern, or Hicinstern, or Sterten, as it is found on a tomb in the manerial chancel; one of whom is said, by tradition, to have been a great robber⁷³. The estate now belongs to Sir H. Smith as before.

2. HAMBROOK, anciently Hanbroc, belonged to the Bishop of Laud. The estates are now very much divided.

A good house, with considerable property, lately belonged to Richard Bayley, Esq. and descended to John Bayley, Esq. the present proprietor.

FRENCHAY, or more properly FROMSHAW⁷⁴, belongs to numerous proprietors, who reside here in modern elegant houses. The situation is most desirable and healthy; and its easy distance of four miles from Bristol, renders it a convenient and agreeable retreat from the busy scenes of commercial life.

Winterbourn has a distinct constable, but Hambrook and Frenchay are in one tything.

Twenty-two freeholders voted from this parish in 1776.

Population, 500—567—1592. Houses inhab. 246.

The church is a rectory, in the deanery and diocese of Bristol, but in the archdeaconry of Gloucester. The society of St. John's college, Oxford, are patrons. Rev. — Parker, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, consists of a nave and north aisle, and is handsomely pewed. On the tower, at the west end, a well-proportioned steeple is built. There is an oratory against the north wall of the church.

The general style of architecture is of the 14th century. The chancel is ornamented with a modern altar-piece of the Ionic order.

In P. N. tax. the church of Winterbourn, 20*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

In the King's books, 27*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

XI. THORNBURY HUNDRED,

Upper Part.

CCCVI. MARSHFIELD, *anciently MERESFIELD,*

Is a parish and market town, seven miles N. E. from Bath, thirteen E. from Bristol, and thirty-five S. from Gloucester, on the borders of Wiltshire. It is about five miles long, by about three in the narrowest part; and the soil varies from stone-brash to the richer kinds, nearly in equal proportions of pasture and tillage, with a large common, and considerable tracts of wood land, of oak and ash.

The town of Marshfield stands in the centre of the parish, consisting of one street of a mile in length, through which the great road leads from London to Bristol. Some years since, the principal trade of the inhabitants was malt making, which is still carried on to some considerable extent.

The reputed borough is within the jurisdiction of the honour of Gloucester, and is governed by a bailiff, annually elected at a court baron, whose power, however, though he is attended by a serjeant at mace, extends little

further than the examination of weights and measures. The market on Thursday, and two fairs, on the 24th of May, and the same day in October, were first granted to the abbot of Keynsham in 1262, renewed at various times, and finally confirmed by James I.

This place was anciently part of the demesnes of the crown, but soon after the conquest, the manor, consisting of fourteen hides, was given to the see of Wells, to be holden as of the honour of Gloucester. In 1106, John, Bishop of Wells, who first assumed the title of Bishop of Bath, gave the manor to the monastery of Bath. It afterwards came to the Earls of Gloucester. William, the second Earl, gave it, with the hundred, to the abbey of Keynsham, co. Somerset, which he had founded for black canons in the reign of Hen. II. In which abbey the manor continued till the dissolution, when Hen. VIII. granted a lease to Sir Anthony Kingston for six years, at 80*l.* rent, and Thomas Lord Willoughby and Sir T. Heneage, Knt. had a grant of the inheritance in 1549, in exchange for lands in Lincolnshire. It was purchased by Edward, Duke of Somerset, and on his attainder came to the crown. Sir Henry Sidney held it for his life, after which Elizabeth gave it to Thomas Ratcliffe, Earl of Sussex, for his military services; by him the greater share was sold to Thomas Gorslet, jointly with John Chambers, Nicholas Richmond, *alias* Webb, and Thomas Crispe, which last died in 1660, seized of many estates in this parish. William Gorslett left a daughter and sole heir, who by marriage carried a share to John Harrington, Esq. of Kelweston, co. Somerset, by whose descendant it was transferred by purchase to Sir William Codrington, Bart. under whose will it passed to Christopher Codrington, Esq. the pre-

sent lord of the manor, with a large property in the parish (285).

TYTHINGS. There are three besides the borough, with their proper officers.

HAMLETS. 1. **WESTONTON**, formerly called Old or Little Marshfield.

2. **OKEFORD** is a reputed manor, of which John Jacob, Esq. descended from the family of the Nortons, co. Wilts, was lord at the beginning of last century, from whom it descended to Miss Jacob; upon whose demise, as the last heir female of the family, it passed to Isaac Webb Horlock, Esq. the present proprietor.

The mansion-house is called *The Rocks*.

3. **AYFORD** or **EYEFORD** is annexed to the manerial property.

4. **ASHWICK.** Mr. William Webb was lord of the manor at the beginning of last century, with an old mansion and competent estate, from which family it has passed by inheritance to Isaac Webb Horlock, Esq.

5. **BICKS** formerly belonged to the family of Crispe, afterwards to Sir William Deans; at the beginning of last century was the property of Miss Oland, afterwards of John Vickers Dickenson, Esq. and now, by heirship, of William Dickenson, Esq.

Besides these was the manor of *Meers*, attached to the honour of Thornbury, which was forfeited by the attainder of Edward, Duke of Buckingham, but afterwards granted to Henry, Lord Stafford. Henry Howard, Esq. (309) now receives the chief rents of this demesne.

Upon the great common called the *Downs*, are the evident remains of ancient intrenchments. Of five tumuli or barrows near them, the largest is called Oswald's tomb.

The traditional account of this being the grave of Oswald, the king of the Northumbrians, is not supported by history. The battle in which that prince lost his life was fought at Oswestry, in Shropshire, then called Maserfield, about 640. From the similarity of names the mistake probably arose⁷⁵.

Near the rocks are three stones, set up to mark the limits of the three counties of Gloucester, Wilts, and Somerset, which meet here in a point. Rudder thinks that to this circumstance we are indebted for the name of the parish, *meare* being an Anglo-Saxon word for *limit* or *boundary*.

Thomas Gawen, a celebrated writer, was born in this parish. He turned Papist, and died in 1683.

Forty freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 800—1237—1246. Houses inhabited, 262.

The benefice is a vicarage, in Hawkesbury deanery, which has been several times augmented by Queen Anne's bounty and private donations. The impropriation, in the reign of Richard II. belonged to the abbey of Keynsham, afterwards to the abbey of Tewkesbury, and after the dissolution, being in the crown, was given by Queen Mary in exchange for Steepinglee and other manors in Bedfordshire and Essex, to the society of New College, Oxon, who are now patrons. John Byrkin Watkins, A. M. is incumbent. The family of Mereweather have long been lessees of the tythes.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is large and handsome. It consists of a lofty nave, two aisles, and a well finished tower, with pinnacles, at the west end. The whole building being in the style of the age of Hen. IV. was probably built by the abbey of Tewkesbury, assisted by the contributions of the inhabitants. On the left hand

of the high altar are three *subsellia*, or stone stalls, with light canopies and finials, where the officiating priests used to be seated.

In 1529 Thomas Parker, chancellor to the Bishop of Worcester, at the request of John Gosselas, the bailiff and lord of the ville of Marysfield, as it was called at that time, established a gild in this church, with rules for the conduct of the fraternity.

The parsonage-house, which was built by Tho. Parker, was taken down and rebuilt by John Carey, M. A. the vicar, about 1734.

In P. N. tax. the church of Maresfield, in the deanery of Button, 11*l*.

The vicar's portion, 5*l*.

In the King's books (discharged) 29*l*. 4*s*. 9½*d*.

CCCVII. IRON ACTON, *anciently* ACTUNE,

Is nine miles N. E. from Bristol, and twenty-six s. from Gloucester. The soil is light brash and rich, lying on a bed of stone of a reddish colour. It is principally in tillage and artificial grasses, and produces abundant crops: the lands which lie on the banks of the Laden and Frome are rich meadow. The former of these streams intersects the parish on the west side, and joins the Frome, which runs on the south from Dodington, and thus united, they flow on to Bristol, where, forming a part of the quay of that port, they fall into the Avon. The name is probably derived from *Ac*, Saxon for oak, with which trees, tradition says, it was once overrun, and in no place do they better thrive at present, when sufficiently encouraged: the prefix of *Iron* was given to distinguish it from Acton Turville, and arises from the great quantity of iron scoria

or cinders found here (*see page 12*), which shews the remains of former iron works. The strata of coal extending over this district of country are found in this parish, but not sufficiently thick to answer the expence of working. The commonable lands were inclosed about 1780, but no commutation was made of tythes. Two annual fairs are held here, on the 25th of April, and the 13th of September.

This parish is in the honor of Gloucester.

The manor is said by Leland to have belonged to the Earls of Hereford: John de Acton, who possessed it soon after the conquest, was probably of that family. The Actons held it till 1344, when, for want of male issue, it passed by marriage with Maud, the heir-general, to Sir Nicholas Poyntz. This family descended from Drogo, son of Poyntz, or Pontz, of Normandy: three brothers, Walter, Drogo or Drew, and Richard, came over with the Conqueror; Walter, grandson of Drogo, resided at Clifford Castle, co. Heref. and took the name of Clifford; but the younger branch remained in this county, and retained the name of Poyntz. Sir John Poyntz, the tenth in lineal succession from Sir Nicholas, who brought this manor into the family, died without issue, and left it to his widow 1679, of whom it was purchased by Wm. Player, and of his widow, who had been married, secondly, to Simon Harcourt, Esq. by Sir Philip Packer, from whom it descended to Sir Walter Long, of South Wraxall, county of Wilts, the present lord of the manor, with good estates. Two considerable estates, called the *Lodge* and *Mudge-down*, were detached from the manor, and sold to Thos. Liston, of Bristol, merchant, 1679. From him they descended to the late Thomas Liston, Esq. on whose death, about 1770, without issue, they came to Samuel King,

Esq. (whose mother was sister of the said Thomas Liston,) who is the present proprietor, and resides at the Lodge.

The manor house, formerly the residence of the Poyntz family, was of considerable extent, but a small part only remains. At the E. end is the chapel, now a cellar, with some remains of painted glass in the window. The great chamber has been partitioned into several rooms. The upper part of the walls, above the cieling, still retain the old Fresco painting. It is now used as a farm-house.

HAMLETS. 1. LATERIDGE, or LADENRIDGE, so called from its situation above the Laden.

A good estate belongs to the family of Battersby.

2. ACTON ILGER, which lies in the hundred of Grumbaldsash, so called from Ilgerus, or Olger, who owned this manor in the Conqueror's time, as mesne lord, under the bishop of St. Laud. The two manors are much intermixed, and were originally in Bachestane's hundred.

To Mr. Thomas Richardson, of this parish, the public are indebted for a valuable discovery or improvement in the method of curing sheep-skins with the wool on, for which he has an exclusive right by patent. When thus prepared, they are applied to the various purposes of rugs, mats for doors and carriages, carpets, boots, shoes, &c. They are very durable; and from being stained with different colours, and in a variety of patterns, are handsome and elegant. The use of them is become now very extensive, and they are found in the houses of the first families in the kingdom. In many respects they supersede the use of bear and other skins, and thus may ultimately prove of national importance, as very large sums are annually expended in the fur trade.—*See a pamphlet on the Uses, &c. of Sheep-skin Rugs, printed at Bristol, 1803.*

Forty-six freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 240—460—860. Houses inhabited, 140.

The benefice is a rectory, in Hawkesbury deanery, in the patronage of Christ church coll. Ox. and Alexander Akehurst, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. James, and built by one of the Poyntz's in the fifteenth century, consists of a nave and south aisle, with a large tower, embatteled and pinnacled, at the w. end. The sudden contraction of the tower seems to shew the intention of the builder to have carried it higher. On the south side the chancel is a vault belonging to the manor-house, where some of the Poyntz family are deposited. In the church-yard is a cross of beautiful Gothic architecture, probably older than the present church⁷⁶.

In P. N. tax. the church of Irenacton, 10*l*.

In the King's books, 16*l*. 10*s*. 0*d*.

CCCVIII. RANGEWORTHY,

Is a small parish, six miles s. e. from Thornbury, and twenty-four s. from Gloucester. The soil and produce are nearly the same as Iron Acton. It contains about 800 acres.

Domesday takes no notice of this place; but how it was separated from Thornbury, or when it acquired manerial and parochial rights, does not appear. The first mention of the manor of Rangeworthy is in the time of Ed. III. it was held of Hugh de Audley, Earl of Gloucester. John Talbot, Viscount Lisle, was seized of it afterwards, and Joan his widow, died seized of it in right of dower, 1468. Elizabeth Courteney, Countess of Devonshire, died possessed of it, 1520, and was succeeded by Sir Arthur Plantagenet, in right of his wife, her daughter and

heir. In 1608 Robert Hale, Esq. was lord of the manor, and Matthew Hale, Esq. at the beginning of last century. From this family it passed to the Phelps's, and John de la Field Phelps, lord of the manor in 1771, was succeeded by his son, John de la Field Phelps, Esq. of Dursley.

The *Farm*, formerly part of the property of the Hale's, belonged to the late James Hardwicke, M. D. of Sodbury; and by descent is now the property of James Hardwicke, clerk, D. D. of Sopworth, co. Wilts.

Six freeholders polled in 1776.

Population, 150—120—230. Houses inhabited, 48.

The church is a curacy, in Hawkesbury deanery. The impropriation belongs to Christ church coll. Ox. The vicar of Thornbury is patron, and William Llewelin, clerk, is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is a small building, with a low tower at the west end. The south door, which is of Saxon architecture, as well as the turret, exhibits marks of great antiquity. It was probably the chapel recorded with Thornbury in P. N. tax (309).

CCCIX. THORNBURY, *anciently* TURNEBERIE,

Is a large parish, containing, with its hamlets, 7200 acres, and gives name to the hundred. It is bounded by the Severn on the n. w. which here forms a wide estuary. A fine rich country of pasture land is comprehended in this district, and the meadows are unusually abundant in grass, but the inconvenience of being frequently inundated attends that part which lies next to the Severn, and two thousand acres of land are rated to the repair of the sea walls in the upper level.

The town of Thornbury stands in the middle of the pa-

rish, at the distance of seven miles from Berkeley, twenty-four s. from Gloucester, eleven n. from Bristol, and two miles and a half from the Severn. It is a borough by prescription, and is governed by a mayor and twelve aldermen, but returns no members to parliament. The mayor, who is chosen out of the aldermen, collects the lord's chief rents, attends the borough court, and examines weights and measures; but whatever power was formerly annexed to the office, is now lost by disuse.

Very little is known with certainty respecting the ancient state of this borough. Leland, in his Itinerary, describes it as “set almost on equalle (*level*) grounde, “being large to the proportion of Y, having first one “longe strete, and two hornes goyne owt of it. There “hathe bene (says he) good clothing in Thornebyry, but “now ideness much reynithe there.” The clothing business is now entirely lost, and no manufacture supplies its room. The market, on account of its vicinity to Bristol, is little attended. There are some good houses, and persons of property in it, but, with a few exceptions, the buildings are old and bad, and the inhabitants poor. There is a Boothall, in which are held four courts.

1. THE COURT OF THE HONOUR OF GLOUCESTER. Here pleas are held for the recovery of debts from 40s. to any amount, within its jurisdiction, which extends over the following places, viz. Thornbury, Kington, Oldbury-upon-Severn, Cowhill, Morton, Mars, *alias* Mares, and Falfield, Philpots, Saltmarsh, (the marshes in Olveston and Almondsbury), Rowles, Buckover, Hope, Rangeworthy, Titherington, Iron Acton, Charfield, Dodington, Marshfield, Mangotsfield, Bitton, Upton Cheney, Beech, Barr's Court, Oldland, Hanham, Doynton, Gaunt's Erdicot, Over, Tockington, Coate, Tewkesbury, Ox-

endon, Alderton, Boddington, Walton Cardiff, Kemerton, Frampton Cotel, Hampton Mesey, and Holyrood Amney. The action commences by affidavit of the debt, before the steward or his deputy, who issues an attachment against the defendant's goods, to be condemned and forfeited at the next court, unless two sufficient persons within the jurisdiction become pledges, in the nature of bail, for the debt and costs, if the defendant should be condemned in the action. Pledges being given, the goods are released, and the plaintiff proceeds by declaration, as in the course of common law.

2. THE HUNDRED COURT, held on Thursday in every three weeks, before the steward, for the recovery of debts under 40s. arising within the hundred.

3. THE BOROUGH COURT, held also on the same day, before the steward of the manor, in the presence of the mayor, attended by the serjeant at mace, for debts under 40s. within the borough.

4. THE MANOR COURT, OR COURT BARON, for the usual purposes.

By the custom of the manor, estates descend to the next heir, like freeholds, with this exception, that the tenant's children being all daughters, the eldest inherits, and so of nieces.

At the time of the survey, Brictric, the son of Algar, held Turneberie, in Langelei hundred. This manor was Queen Maud's, and descended in the same way as Tewkesbury (69), till the death of Gilbert, the fourth Earl Clare, without male issue, when the estates were divided between his three sisters, Eleanor, Margaret, and Elizabeth; Eleanor married Hugh Despenser, the younger, 1321, and carried a third part, including Tewkesbury, into that family; Elizabeth, the youngest, married John de Burgo,

son and heir of the Earl of Ulster, in Ireland; Margaret, the second, was married first to Peter or Piers de Gaveston, and secondly to Hugh de Audeley; from this last marriage sprung one daughter, Margaret, who was married to Ralph Lord Stafford, afterwards Earl Stafford, and thus carried into that family the manor of Thornbury, and the honour of Gloucester. He died 46 Ed. III. and left his surviving son and heir, Hugh, Earl of Stafford, who dying at Rhodes, in his return from a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, 9 Rich. II. was brought to England, and buried at Stone. He was succeeded by his son—

Thomas, Earl of Stafford, who dying without heir, was buried at Stone, and succeeded by his brother William, who dying unmarried, 18 Rich. II. was succeeded by his brother Edmond, Earl of Stafford, who having married Anne, the widow of his brother Thomas, was slain at the battle at Shrewsbury, 2 H. IV. His relict, Anne, died 17 H. VI. and was buried at Lanthony priory, near Gloucester.

Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, his son, married Anne, daughter of Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmoreland, and was created Duke of Buckingham, 23 H. VI. He was slain at the battle of Northampton, when H. VI. was taken prisoner.

Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, his eldest son, married Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of Edmond, Duke of Somerset, and was slain at the battle of St. Alban's, in his father's life-time; whereupon his son Henry succeeded his grandfather in the title of Duke of Buckingham, and in the manor of Thornbury. He was beheaded at Salisbury, 1 R. III. without judicial form, for taking up arms against the king.

Edward, Duke of Buckingham, was son of the last

Humphrey. He married Alianora, daughter of Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland. He was beheaded for treason, through the intrigues of Cardinal Wolsey, 13 Hen. VIII.

Henry Stafford, his eldest son, was, by act of parliament, restored in blood, and to some, but not all, his father's honours and estate, 14 Hen. VIII. The manor, castle, town, and park, &c. of Thornbury, and the manor of Bedellanam, in Thornbury, were granted to him as Lord Stafford, and to Ursula his wife, daughter of Sir Richard Pole, and their heirs for ever, 2 Mar. He died in 1558, and was succeeded by his son—

Edward, Lord Stafford, who died in 1592, and his elder son Edward dying before his father, left a son Henry, who died young, and a daughter Mary, who being heiress of the family, was married to William Howard, a younger son of Thomas, Earl of Arundel and Surry, who, in her right, was seized of the manor of Thornbury. He was created Viscount Stafford by Chas. I. and was beheaded in Chas. II. upon the testimony of the infamous Doctor Oates. An attempt was made, in Jac. II. to reverse the attainder of this lord by a bill in parliament; but some of the lords protested against it, and the commons rejected it.

Henry Stafford Howard, son of William, Viscount Stafford, was created Earl of Stafford by James II. and was lord of the manor of Thornbury at the beginning of the last century. Henry Howard, Esq. is the present lord of the manor.

The CASTLE at Thornbury was begun by Edward Duke of Buckingham, on the scite of a house which had been built by Ralph Lord Stafford. There was anciently a castle here, but by whom built is uncertain. Hugh de

Audley was in possession of it, Ed. II. The Duke was prevented finishing it by his attainder and death. It is probable that the king (who was entertained here with Anne of Bulloigne, in 1539) might conceive some jealousy on account of the extent and strength of the building, and that might lead to his destruction. The following is an abridged account of the castle taken about the time of James I.

The castle stands within two miles of the Severn, near the church. The entrance is into a court of two acres and a half, with buildings for servants lodgings, left unfinished without timber or covering. The west entrance is by two gates, and a wicket in the larger of them. A porter's lodge to the left, and a dungeon under it. Adjoining is a handsome room, called the Duke's wardrobe, and within the same a lodging room, and a vault underneath. Over all this are four lodging rooms. On the right of the gates are two rooms, called the Dutchess's wardrobe, and over, two rooms, called the steward's chambers. Within all which is a stone paved court of half an acre, leading to the great hall, at the entry whereof is a porch, and on the right the ewery⁷⁷.

On the north are the kitchen and other offices. From the lower end of the great hall is a passage leading to the chapel. The outer part of the chapel is a room for people to stand in during service, and over it two rooms, with each of them a chimney, where the Duke and Dutchess used to attend service. The body of the chapel is neat, and has twenty-two settles of wainscoat, for priests, clerks, and choristers. The hall is large, and has a hearth in the middle for fire. Near to this, a cloyster walk, paved with bricks, leads from the Duke's lodgings to the private garden, containing about three quarters of an acre. Three

sides of the garden are surrounded with a cloyster, and the fourth with the new buildings. Over this cloyster is a gallery, which leadeth to the parish church; and at the end is a room with a chimney, and a window into the church, where the Duke used to hear divine service. Near the gallery are thirteen rooms, called the Earl of Bedford's lodgings. The whole is built with freestone, and covered with slate or tile. The lower part is called the new buildings, at the end of which is a tower. Several chambers are in this part. Among others, the Duke's closet, from which is a private way to the Duke's lodgings. In the new buildings, are the dining room, the privy chamber, and the Duke's jewel chamber. On the second story is the Duke's bedchamber, and above this, being the third story of the tower, another chamber, and over this the treasury. These buildings are of freestone, covered with lead, and embatteled.

On the east side is another garden of three quarters of an acre, adjoining the Earl of Bedford's lodgings. The whole, with the gardens and orchards, contain about twelve acres.

Since this account was written, many parts have fallen into ruins. The gatehouse, however, and much of the walls, with the outer wall that inclosed the whole, are standing. One of the towers is fitted up for the steward of the castle. The following inscription is still over the gatehouse:—"This gate was begun in the yere of our Lorde Gode MCCCCCXI. the II yere of the reyne of Kynge Henri the VIII. by me EDW. Duc of Buckingham, Erlle of Harforde, Stafforde, and Northampton." The Duke's word "DORENTE SAVANT," (upon a label). Besides this are several ornamental devices, and the Stafford's knot frequently repeated.

The toadstone is found abundantly in this neighbourhood.

In the meadows grow the wild asparagus, seed purslane, acanthus, black maidenhair, agrimony, wholesome wolfsbane, yellow centaury, wild germander, great celadine, houndstongue, wild clary, betony, St. John's wort, polypody of the wall, and others.

By an act of Chas. II. the TYTHINGS of Oldbury, Kington, Morton, and Falfield, were consolidated into the manor of Thornbury.

1. OLDBURY-UPON-SEVERN stretches along the shore of the Severn, and is supposed to be the Roman station called the *trajectus* or ferry, mentioned in Antoninus's fourteenth Iter from Isca, now Caerleon, in Monmouthshire⁷⁸. The remains of several ancient camps are still extant. The smaller one, or *campus minor*, was on the east side of the hill, near the church, where every thing passing upon the river might be seen; and many Roman coins have been found upon the spot. Eastward of this was the *campus major*; and part of the intrenchments, with high banks, forming two sides of a square, still remain tolerably distinct.

The chapelry of Oldbury is annexed to Thornbury. The chapel stands on the top of the hill, and seems to have been built in this situation as a commanding object from the chancel.

COWELL is a hamlet in this tything. It continued many years in the family of Campness, and was lately purchased of Sir Thomas Campness by Peter Holford, of Weston Birt, in this county, Esq.

A good estate here belongs to Joseph Saunders, Esq.

2. KINGTON. The church of Thornbury stands in this

tything. The lands anciently belonged to the Staffords. At *Marlewood* was an ancient seat and park belonging to them. Edward Stafford sold them at the beginning of the last century, and an ancestor of the present owner, the Rev. Mr. Knight, was purchaser. Considerable property belongs to the manor.

3. MORTON. *Eastwood* is a very large estate here, and formerly had a park. The mansion-house is still remaining, but used for a farm-house. It was formerly the property of Edward, Duke of Buckingham, but now belongs to Lord Liverpool.

Hope and *Buckover* are places in this tything. In the former a good estate is divided into moieties between Mrs. Morris, relict of the late Thomas Morris, of Cromhall, Gent. and Mrs. Bond.

4. FALFIELD. A good estate here, called *Sundy's hill* has been for many generations in the family of Skey, and is now vested in William Skey, Esq. This hamlet was a separate manor, but now consolidated with Thornbury.

Considerable property here belonged to the late Thomas Webb, Esq. (255)

Great quantities of scoria or cinders have been collected here. (*See p. 12.*) Falfield has a chapel.

Eighty-two freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 1100—1971—2462. Houses inhab. 476.

The benefice is a vicarage, in Dursley deanery. The impropriation once belonged to Tewkesbury abbey, by the gift of Gilbert de Clare. At the dissolution it was granted to Ch. Ch. Coll. Oxf. The chapels of Oldbury and Falfield are annexed to it. Richard Slade, A.M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is a large

and handsome building, consisting of a nave, with a clere-story and two aisles, and a transept. The tower, which stands at the west end, is ornamented with pinnacles and battlements. The frequent repetition of the Stafford's knot, and the depressed arches of the windows, shew the time of its building to have been at the latter end of the 15th century; but the north and south doors exhibiting the Saxon style, are probably parts of the original building.

In P. N. tax. the church of Thornbury, with chapel, 31*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Portion of the abbot of Tewkesbury, 3*l.* 3*s.*

In the King's books, 25*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*

CCCX. TITHERINGTON, *anciently* TIDRENTUNE,

Is three miles s. e. from Thornbury, and twenty-three s. from Gloucester. The soil, extending over 1600 acres, excepting that which is found on the rocky side of the parish, is deep, and generally applied to pasture. The village is situated at the southern base of that vast bed of lime-stone rock which forms a very prominent feature in this part of the county. It is here called Tower-hill, and adjoins to Milbury-heath, which lies partly in this parish. About a quarter of a mile w. from the church is a strong intrenchment on an eminence called Castle-hill. The form, which is an oblong square, decides it to be a Roman post, and the extent of country taken within its view to the east and south-east, over the vale, made it a station of very considerable importance. The ground inclosed is not more than four or five acres.

A tessellated pavement was dug up at Stidcot, about a hundred years since.

The traditionary account of a castle having once stood here, does not seem to be justified by any discoveries of foundations or other remains of such kinds of buildings. The Roman *castra* have in other places suggested the idea of castles, where were only common intrenchments. About the year 1772 two stone coffins were found on the eastern side of the parish, placed in a north and south direction, containing perfect skeletons, one of which measured six feet three, but no coins, armour, or inscription were found, by which any conjecture could be formed of the persons to whom these reliques belonged, but as no barrow was raised over them, it is probable they were Romans of rank belonging to this post.

The *Laden* runs from this place to Iron Acton.

Domesday records this manor as parcel of the lands of the Bishop of Excestre. It was held of the honour of Gloucester, and is now within the jurisdiction of the Honour Court. William Corbet was lord of it 1281, and it continued in that family till 1324. The Lords Bradeston were proprietors during the reign of Edw. III. from whom it passed by marriage with Elizabeth, the heiress to Walter de la Pool. It had passed into the family of the Willoughbys of Broke in the reign of Hen. VIII. Elizabeth, the only surviving daughter of Robert, second Lord Willoughby of Broke, and the richest heiress in England, was married to Sir Fulk Grevil, second son of her guardian, Sir Edward, of Melcot, co. Warwick. On his death in 1558, his son, Sir Fulke, succeeded, whose son Fulke was an eminent character in the reigns of Elizabeth, James, and Charles I. He was stabbed by one of his servants at Brook House, London, 1628, in the 75th year of his age, and dying unmarried, the title devolved on his kinsman Robert, but this manor came to Sir Richard

Verney, Knt. who had married Margaret, daughter of Sir Fulke. This family afterwards claimed the barony of Willoughby of Broke by descent, and George Verney, D. D. surviving son and heir of Richard, Lord Willoughby, was lord of this manor at the beginning of last century. It afterwards passed to James Hardwicke, Esq. by purchase, and from him to Samuel Hardwick, his first cousin, who dying without issue, it came to Joseph Hardwick, Esq. their uncle, who dying in 1771, was succeeded by his son, John Hardwick, Esq. whose son, Thomas Machin Hardwicke, Esq. is now lord of the manor, with a very considerable estate attached to it, but part leased out.

A considerable estate belongs by purchase, to James Pullin, Gent.

HAMLETS. 1. **ITCHINGTON**, is a member of Henbury hundred. The principal property belongs to Lord Willoughby de Broke, who is also lord of the manor.

2. **HIDCOT**. The principal property here is divided between the families of Russel, Drew, and Pullen.

Seventeen freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 320—310—368. Houses inhab. 67.

The benefice is a vicarage, in the deanery of Hawkesbury. It was anciently appropriated to the priory of Lanthony. The impropriation now belongs to the lord of the manor, who is also patron, and James Hardwicke, D. D. is incumbent.

The parsonage-house was built in 1662, by William Eldridge, vicar.

The church consists of a nave and two aisles, and a low tower at the west end. The chancel was built about 1778 by the late vicar, Thomas Shellard, A. M.

In P. N. tax. the church of Tyderinton, 9*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

In the King's books (discharged) 10*l.*

XII. HENBURY HUNDRED.

CCCXI. COMPTON GREENFIELD, *anciently* CONTONE,

Is a small parish adjoining to Almondsbury on the s. w. bounded on the Severn on the w. in the hundred of Henbury, six miles from Bristol, and thirty-three from Gloucester. The soil is deep, and being subject to water, is chiefly applied to pasture. The addition was given to the name to distinguish it from Compton Eastward, in the parish of Almondsbury. The turnpike-road from Bristol to Aust Passage leads along the n. e. side of it, near the church.

It appears from Domesday, that this was a part of the manor of Huisberie (Westbury), and that Gilbert, the son of Fuold, held three hides and half in Contone (Compton). It was granted to Ralph Bloet 18 John; in 1355 it passed to Sir Maurice Berkeley, Knt.; Thomas de Beauchamp held it in 1401; Sir T. Brooke in 1418; Sir J. Berkeley in 1428; and Sir Maurice Berkeley, of Beverstone, in 1465 and 1475. Sir Wm. Berkeley, of Stoke Giffard, is found seized of it in or about 1484; but after the battle of Bosworth Field, his estates were seized by Hen. VII. and the manor given to Thomas Brugge in 1485. The Berkeleys were afterwards restored to their estates, and on Sir William Berkeley's death in 1552, his grandson, John Berkeley, sold it to T. Mallet, Esq. who left a son, John Young, 1582. Patrick Young had the manor in 1608; it then passed to Sir Thomas Cann, Knt. whose eldest son, Robert, succeeded to the title of Baro-

net on the death of his cousin, Sir William Cann, but dying without issue, his brother William succeeded, who left a son, Robert, and a daughter, Elizabeth. Sir Robert died without issue, and the title was lost, but the manor and estate devolved to his nephew Robert, and from him to his sister Catherine, (son and daughter of Elizabeth, who had been married to Charles Jefferies, of Bristol, Esq). Sir Henry Lippincott, Bart. married Catherine, and dying about 1782, left his son, Sir Henry Cann Lippincott, Bart. who is now lord of the manor.

Six freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 20—37—175. Houses inhabited, 27.

The living is a rectory, in the diocese of Bristol and archdeaconry of Gloucester, endowed with considerable glebe. In the thirteenth century it was styled “Capella de Contone,” and probably a chapel to Westbury-upon-Trim.

The church has a low tower at the west end, and in the arch of the door at the south entrance bears the marks of early architecture. Sir H. C. Lippincott, Bart. is patron. Rev. James New, M. A. incumbent.

In P. N. tax. the chapel of Compton, 2*l*.

In the king's books (discharged) 7*l*.

CCCXII. HENBURY, *anciently* HENBERIE,

Is a parish of large extent, four miles N. from Bristol, and thirty-five S. W. from Gloucester. It is washed by the Severn on the W. and adjoins Westbury, which lies to the E. and with this anciently formed the hundred of Bernin-trere. The extent is 10,500 acres, and the soil chiefly of rich loam or sand, with little exception applied to pasturage. The lands which are contiguous to the channel

are *marsh*, and hence in ancient records it was styled *Henbury in salso marisco*. The name is derived from *hen*, old, and *berg*, a camp or fortification.

From Thomas's Survey of Worcester, it appears that thirty cassats of land at Henbury and Aust, with the fisheries of the river Severn, were given to the see of Worcester in 691, by Osfer, the second bishop. King Offa added twenty manses in 795. From Domesday it appears that Huersberie in Bernintre hundred, belonged, in Saxon times, with Henbury and others, to the church of St. Mary, Worcester. Soon after the conquest, the bishops of Worcester founded a palace here, for their occasional residence, the scite of which is now marked by some ruinous buildings near the church. Soon after the general dissolution the manor, with its appendages, was granted to Sir Rafe Sadleyr and his heirs, who had gained twenty-one other manors from the spoils of the church. Gertrude was the daughter, and at length sole heir of Sir Thomas Sadleyr, and wife of Sir Walter Aston, of Tixal, co. Stafford. Walter, Lord Aston, their son, sold the manerial estate, with the advowson of the vicarage to T. Yate, Esq. of Grays Inn, London, and Gregory Gearing, of Denworth, co. Berks, Esq. in 1675, who resold them in 1680 to Sir Samuel Astry, Knt. a lineal descendant of Sir Ralph Astry, lord mayor of London, 1594, and on his death without issue male, to his three daughters, co-heiresses, and by the same succession as Westerleigh (296), to the present joint lords of the manor, Henry, Lord Middleton, Edward F. Colston, Esq. and Sir Hugh Smith, Bart.

Blaise Castle rises above the village on the south-west side, and was probably the scite of a chapel dedicated to St. Werburgh (*Capella St. Warburgæ super montem Hem-*

birie sita) though more generally thought to have been to *St. Blazius*, from whom it received its present name. It stands on the scite of a Roman camp, perhaps the work of Ostorius, when he built the range of forts along the Avon and Severn, as mentioned by Tacitus. Many Roman vestiges, and coins of the Lower Empire, discovered in 1708 and 1768, prove that it was a *specula*, or out-post, of the Romans; and in the later ages there is said to have been a beacon, for the use of the ships in the Bristol channel. In 1768, when the foundations of the present building were preparing, the under-walls of the old chapel were dug up, and in a vault were discovered many human bodies, with the skulls entire, and the teeth white. On the summit of a fine conical knoll, which rises from the centre of the park, was erected by the late Tho. Farr, Esq. a castellated building, of considerable height and dimensions, resembling the citadel or keep of an ancient castle. The turrets from the north are distinct, and the whole is most beautifully embosomed in wood. It is now the property of Scanderet Harford, Esq.

A good house and estate have for many generations been vested in the family of Sampson.

TYTHINGS and HAMLETS. 1. KING'S WESTON, which received its name from being the King's ancient demesnes, and lying most westerly of any part of Berkeley hundred, of which it is a member, though far detached from any part of it. This manor originally was given, in the lordship of Berkeley, to Robert Fitzharding, and continued in the Berkeley family, till Sir William B. sold it to Sir William Wintour in 1570, from which family it passed, by purchase, to Humphry Hook, and from his son to Sir Robert Southwell in 1679, descended from an ancient family. His grandfather was one of the over-

seers of the will of Hen. VIII. from whom the present noble proprietor, Edward Lord de Clifford, is the sixth in lineal descent.

Roger de Clifford was summoned to Parliament in 1298. The father of the present lord put in his claim to the barony, which had been some time in abeyance, as being the son of Catherine Viscountess Sondes, eldest daughter of Thomas Earl of Thanet, in whom the barony had been revived, and who died without issue male in 1729. After Lord Thanet's death the barony was revived in the person of Lady Margaret Tufton, his third daughter, and wife of Thomas Lord Lovell. She left no surviving issue at her death, and in 1776 Edward Southwell, Esq. was summoned to Parliament, as a descendant, on the female side, from the house of Clifford.

The mansion-house, which stands in a most commanding situation, within a park of 500 acres, was built by Sir R. Southwell, from a design of Sir J. Vanbrugh, and is in the best style of that artist. The portal, finished with Corinthian pilasters, leads to the great hall, which is lofty, as are the other rooms, and most of them ornamented with portraits of the Southwell family, and their connexions, by the most eminent masters.

Bewy's Cross, of which there are still remains, stood near the Severn. Seamen formerly held it in high estimation, and paid their devotions to it upon their safe landing.

This tything contains 1400 acres.

2. LAWRENCE WESTON, so called because the hospital of St. Lawrence, near Bristol, had lands there, once belonged to the Berkeleys; and in the reign of James I. to the family of Lewis. It is now vested in Lord de Clifford, with the impropriation. No remains are extant of the

chapel of ease, which formerly stood in this tything. It contains about 1100 acres, which nearly all belong to Lord Clifford.

3. STOWICK, tything, lies in the Marsh, and contains about 2500 acres: the manor and tythes, except those of Crookmarsh, belong to Lord Clifford.

Other proprietors are, John Sampson, Esq. John Easson, Esq. S. Edwards, Esq. &c.

4. CHARLTON, hamlet and tything, containing about 1000 acres, is said to be annexed to the manor of Westbury.

The property is divided between the names of Jefferies, Powell, Sampson, Teast, and Osborn.

5. NORTHWICK and REDWICK, including jointly about 1400 acres, stretch along the banks of the Severn, and were a part of the large manor of Westbury. In it is a chapel, of the architecture of the later centuries, five miles distant from the mother church.

The property is divided between Sir H. C. Lippincott, John Marsh, Andrew Daubeney, T. Lewis, Esqrs. &c.

In the hamlet of Redwick is the *New Passage*, which crosses over to Monmouthshire, about four miles below Chepstow. The title of New Passage arose from its renewal in 1718, after an abolition, in consequence of the following remarkable incident:—Charles I. being pursued by a strong party of his enemies, crossed the Severn to the Chissel Pill, on the Gloucestershire side: the boat was scarcely returned, when a corps of sixty republicans came to the Black Rock, and, with violent threats, compelled the boatmen to ferry them across. But the boatmen, who were in the interest of the King, left them on the *English Stones*, which are separated from the Gloucestershire shore by a lake fordable at low water; and the tide having then just turned, and flowing in with great rapidity, they were

all drowned. Cromwell, for this reason, abolished this ferry, which was as ancient as the other; nor was the claim resumed till 1718, when, after a legal dispute between the Duke of Beaufort and the family of St. Pierre, it was adjudged to the latter. The river is here three miles over.

6. AUST, or the *Old Passage* over the Severn to Beachley, in the parish of Tidenham, is three miles below the New Passage, and eight miles from Henbury church. Its name is by some derived from *Austre*, south, referring to its situation on the south cliff of the Severn; by others from *Ostorius Scapula*, who, it is said, established a passage into South Wales, for the conveyance of the legions over it, whence came *Oster Clive*. The river is here nearly two miles across.

The manor of Aust came to the family of Astry, in 1652. On a partition of his estates between his three daughters (296), it fell to the youngest, Arabella, Countess of Suffolk, who devised it to Sir John Smith, Bart. His son, Sir John, dying in 1741, without issue, devised his estate to his three surviving sisters and co-heirs, who, in 1750, sold this manor to Sir Jarrit Smith, Bart. who resold it to the Rev. Staunton Degge, late of Over, from whom it passed, at his death, to Mrs. Wilmot, his sister; and on her death, to her son Edward Sacheverell, who assumed the name of Sitwell (268) (303) (298). The principal property is annexed to the manor.

Aust Passage is memorable for the meeting that took place between Edward the elder and Leoline Prince of S. Wales, who, from pride, refusing to cross the Severn, learnt a lesson of condescension from the English monarch, and did homage to him on his own shore for the principality.

The cliff exhibits some curious mineralogical appearances. It is composed of two strata of clay, the upper of a blue, and the under of a red tinge: these rest upon a grey limestone rock, but embedded in the lower stratum is one of gypsum, of great depth and extent, continued through the counties of Monmouth and Glamorgan, and stretching as far as Tenby, in Pembrokeshire. From this mine the plaisterers of Bath, Bristol, and other places, are supplied with what, after calcination, becomes alabaster, the uses of which are well known. Its dip is to the s. e. about thirty degrees. Two small veins of sulphate of strontian are found at this spot, running in a perpendicular direction through the strata of clay. One occurs at the commencement of the cliff, close to the well of water; the other, which is four inches in breadth, presents itself opposite to the pier⁷⁹.

7. AYLINGTON, or ELMINTON, formerly belonged to the Blounts. Sir John Smith was lord of the manor at the beginning of last century, from whom it has passed to Sir Hugh Smith, Bart. (296)

The marsh asparagus (*asparagus officinalis*), small knot-grass (*polygonum minus*), and mountain cress (*lepidium petreum*), are found in this parish.

The *entorchus* is found in some places about King's-Weston.

Sixty freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 880—1200—1383. Houses inhab. 256.

The benefice is a vicarage, in Bristol deanery and diocese, and was appropriated to the see of Worcester 1140. In 1549 the impropriation was alienated by Nich. Heath, then bishop, to Lord Dudley, Duke of Northumberland; and this, with the advowson, has been since held with the manor.

is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, has a very spacious nave, with two aisles, one of which is continued parallel with the chancel. The arches of the windows are in the lancet shape of the early Norman: the external form is much altered, from repairs made probably about the beginning of the sixteenth century; the interior is ornamented in a judicious, chaste, and decent style.

In P. N. tax. the bisb. of Worcest. holds at Hambur. in *Salso Marisco*, of rent per annum 40*l.*; also five caruc. of land, each worth 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* yearly.

In the King's books (discharged) 30*l.*

CCCXIII. STOKE GIFFARD, *anciently* STOCKE,

Is a parish, containing 2000 acres, four miles N. from Bristol, and thirty-two s. from Gloucester. The soil is various, but generally of clay, and in a large proportion applied to pasture.

The name was added to distinguish it from other *Stokes* (42) (314) in the county, derived from the family who were proprietors for many generations.

The manor of Stoke was given, among others, by the Conqueror to Osborn Giffard (160). In 1338 it passed into the family of Berkeley after the death of Margaret, widow of John Giffard, who was executed at Gloucester for rebellion against Edward the second.

Sir Maurice Berkeley, the grantee, was the second son of Maurice Lord Berkeley, of Berkeley castle, in whose posterity it lineally descended from father to the eldest son through twelve generations till 1685, when George Berkeley, Esq. dying without issue, was succeeded by his brother, John Symes Berkeley, from whose marriage with his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of

Walter Norborn, of Calne, co. Wilts, Esq. sprung Norborne Berkeley, Esq. and Elizabeth married to Charles Noel, Duke of Beaufort, and mother of the present Duke. Norborne Berkeley, Esq. had the claim allowed him of the Barony of Botetourt, which had long been in abeyance, and was summoned by his Majesty to Parliament as Baron Botetourt by descent. On his death, in 1770, the title became extinct, and his sister Elizabeth, Dutchess Dowager of Beaufort, succeeded to the manor and estate; and on her death, both descended to his Grace Henry, the present Duke of Beaufort, her son.

Stoke house, the manerial seat, was built originally in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by Sir Richard Berkeley, and being much injured during the great rebellion, the present mansion was partly rebuilt, and entirely repaired and decorated by the late Lord Botetourt about 1760, and it is recorded in honour of his Lordship, that the motto placed in the front (*mihi vobisque*) perfectly accorded with the amiable disposition and acknowledged character of the noble proprietor. The eminence on which the building is erected gives it a peculiar grandeur, and nature has been unusually fortunate in the assistance she has derived from art, in embellishing the local beauties of the situation.

HAMLETS. 1. **GREAT STOKE**, in which the house is situated. 2. **LITTLE STOKE.** 3. **HARRIS or HERRY STOKE.** The whole parish is the property of the Duke.

No freeholder voted in 1776.

Population, 200—283—281. Houses inhabited, 39.

The benefice is in the deanery and diocese of Bristol, but archdeaconry of Gloucester, a vicarage, anciently appropriated to Little Malvern, co. Worcest. for which John Giffard held the advowson in trust. The patronage

is now with the manor, and James Hammond Foxcroft, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Michael, consists of a nave and north aisle, separated by two fluted pillars, and as many pilasters, with capitals. The interior is neat and uniform. The tower is finished with battlements and pinnacles, and the porch ornamented with elegant tabernacle work.

In P. N. tax. the church of Stoke Giffard, 10*l*.

In the King's books (discharged) 6*l*.

CCCXIV. WESTBURY-UPON-TRIM, *anciently* HUESBERIE,

Is a parish of large extent, two miles and a half n. from Bristol, and thirty-five s. from Gloucester. The river Avon bounds it on the west, and the small rivulet Trim runs through the parish on its way to the Avon, at Sea-mills dock. The soil is generally a light loam, lying on a limestone rock, and more than half is in pasture.

The etymology of the name is difficult to be settled; the word means a station west of some place, but of what is uncertain. *Henbury* may signify the old town or station, but the two places lies n. and s. of each other.

A turnpike road leads through this parish from Bristol to South Wales, over the old and new passages.

There was an ancient religious foundation here for a dean and five canons, situated on the banks of the Trim. The estates with which it had been anciently endowed, were long before the conquest appropriated to the church of Worcester; and many particulars relating to this institution are mentioned in Thomas's Survey of Worcester Cathedral. Edw. III. gave the hospital of St. Lawrence,

near Bristol, towards the maintenance of the monks of this college. Richard, Duke of York, and his third son, Edmond, Earl of Rutland, were such great benefactors as to have had the honour of its foundation attributed to them. At the dissolution the scite of this college was granted to Sir Ralph Sadleyr. In the reign of Charles the first, the walls, with turrets at the angles and on the sides, also a large turret on the south side with battlements, were standing, but in a great measure destroyed by order of Prince Rupert, that it might not be made a garrison to annoy the city of Bristol. What little now remains is incorporated with buildings since erected, which together constitute the seat of Isaac Hobhouse, Esq.

The manor was the property of Ralph Sadleyr, Esq. in 1608 ; it afterwards passed by purchase to Yates, next to Goring, and then to Simon Harcourt, Esq. of Penley, in right of his wife, the widow of Sir Samuel Astry, for her life. From Sir Samuel Astry it descended to his three daughters, co-heiresses, and down to the present proprietors, Henry Lord Middleton, Ed. F. Colston, Esq. and Sir Hugh Smith, Bart. without landed property (296).

TYTHINGS AND HAMLETS. 1. **STOKE BISHOP**, so called because it belonged to the bishop of Constance, in Normandy. It was afterwards vested in the bishops of Worcester, and held by them till it was alienated in 1547, and given to Sir Ralph Sadleyr, from whom it has descended, as Westbury, to the present proprietors.

A handsome seat and large estate in this tything belonged to Sir Henry Cann Lippincott, Bart. This, and other considerable manors and estates, were formerly the property of the Canns, and came into the present family by marriage of the late Sir Henry Lippincott, Bart. with

Catherine, sister of Robert Cann Jeffries, Esq. in 1774, who died unmarried (311).

The Lippincotts are descended from an ancient family in the county of Devon; and the father of the present baronet was twice sheriff of Bristol, and high sheriff of the county of Gloucester in 1776.

The mansion house, with some land, has lately been sold from the estate to Sir R. B. Johnstone.

Sneed-park lies in this tything, and formerly belonged to the bishop of Worcester; but at the dissolution was granted to Sadler, and sold by that family to Joseph Jackson, an ancestor of the present proprietor. This family is originally from the county of York, and has been seated here more than a century and a half. Robert Jackson, Esq. son and heir of Nicholas Jackson, Esq. (by Anne, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Cann, of Stoke Bishop) and great grandson of the original purchaser, left his widow in possession of this large and beautiful estate.

An octagon tower, within the park walls, and near the edge of Vincent's rocks, called *Cook's Folly*, from the name of the supposed builder, two or three centuries since, forms a fine object from the house, and commands a most extensive view of the country around.

Say or *Sea Mills* is an estate in this tything, at the confluence of the Avon and Trim, where large docks for the preservation of the shipping were made more than a hundred years since. The plan was the production of Joshua Franklyn, a wealthy citizen of Bristol, who sunk the greatest part of his own fortune, and considerable sums raised by the subscription of his friends, in the undertaking. The docks have been utterly abandoned for many years.

The villa and estate attached to Say Mills, and held by

lease of a thousand years of the Clifford family, belong to Rowles Scudamore, Esq. of Bristol.

Roman coins have been found here and pieces of pottery; and here Mr. Coxe has fixed the *Abone*, or great Roman station⁸⁰.

REDLAND is a hamlet, formerly belonging to the abbey of Tewkesbury; came, at the general dissolution of religious houses, to the family of Wilson, afterwards to the Cossins, then to John Innys, Esq. and by marriage to Jeremiah Baker, Esq. who died about 1738. The estates have since been sold to — Seymour, Esq. who occasionally resides here.

The mansion house, which is a very elegant building, was erected by the late Mr. Cossins, who also, in 1740, built a chapel for the convenience of the inhabitants, and endowed it with lands for the support of a minister, for whom also he built a house, at the expence of 1000*l*. The chapel is of freestone, to which the entrance is at the west end, with a portico supported by four Ionic pillars. A single bell hangs under an elegant dome. The interior is neatly fitted up and decorated. The altar-piece is half an octagon, wainscoated in compartments, and well finished with carvings of trophies and festoons, and an excellent painting of the embalming of Christ. The table is of marble, and supported by a gilt eagle, before which two other eagles are raised on pedestals, for the usual purpose of supporting books. The cieling is finished in the best taste; and, taken as a whole, this chapel is perhaps no where exceeded. In a small vestry room, on the right of the door, a handsome monument is erected, for the family of Cossins and their relatives. On one side of the entrance is a bust of Mr. Cossins, the founder, executed in marble, by Rysbrack; and opposite to it, another of

Mrs. Cossins, his wife. The chapel is annexed to Westbury.

A good estate here belongs to Thomas Edwards Freeman, Esq. of Battsford.

2. SHIREHAMPTON is another large tything, s. w. of the church, in the precincts of which are Kingroad and Hungroad. In Domesday it is called Chire, and has been thought, not very probably, to have belonged to Westbury-upon-Severn hundred. The confusion that unavoidably arises from records which relate to two places of the same name, without any characteristic distinction, makes it difficult to apply them always with certainty. In the reign of Elizabeth, the manor belonged to Thos. Mallett, Esq. and afterwards passed to the family of Lewis.

Lord de Clifford has the largest property; the rest is much divided.

Service is performed in this tything once every fortnight, at the chapel, annexed to the mother church.

SOUTHMEAD is another manor in this parish, formerly belonging to the nunnery of St. Mary Magdalen, in Bristol. At the dissolution it was granted to Thomas Haines, and was sold by a descendant to Mr. Barker; and after having often changed owners, it came at length to Mr. Joshua James, a distiller, of Bristol, who made great improvements on the mansion and estate; and soon after his death, it was purchased by Thomas Jones, Esq. of Bristol, who is now lord of the manor, and proprietor of the appendant estate.

Durdham Down, a large tract of high uninclosed ground, lies partly in this and partly in Clifton parish, and around it are many well-built elegant villas.

Pen-park is a villa belonging to John Harmar, Esq. formerly Mr. Thomas Wasborough, delightfully situated,

with pleasure grounds laid out in a stile of elegance not often exceeded.

On this estate is a prodigious cavern, called Pen-park Hole, which was a few years since brought into notice, and more accurately examined in consequence of an unfortunate accident which happened to the Rev. T. Newman, a member of Bristol cathedral. Going too near to the mouth of the pit, and trusting to a twig that sprung from the root of an ash tree for support, he unfortunately fell, by his foot slipping and the twig giving way, in the sight of his friends, and was not found till thirty-nine days after the accident. The investigations which took place in consequence led to different opinions; but there seems no reason to depart from the conclusion made by Capt. Collins, in 1682,—that it was formerly a pit for lead ore. A full account was given in 1775, in the Philosophical Transactions by Mr. White, an eminent surveyor, who descended into it several times, measured and made drawings of every part of it. The whole depth of the cavity is 215 feet; and the surface of the water, which is about 140 feet from the top of the funnel, is 80 feet long and 52 wide on the average.

Cote, is a large house on the south side of the road from Bristol to Westbury, built with turrets and battlements, and within the last sixty years successively the property of William Phelps, John Thomas, and John Webb, Esqrs. and since the death of the latter gentleman, has been sold to Josiah Wedgewood, Esq.⁸¹

Another house, near to the last, lately belonged to Mrs. Hort, and on her death came to the family of Rooke, and is now the property of Mrs. Rooke.

Cotham House stands about a quarter of a mile from

Redland Court, and is the property and residence of Samuel Edwards, Esq.

The *Cotham stone* is a natural, but rather scarce production, of great curiosity. It lies in a detached manner within the surface of the ground. The upper side is full of nodules and bunches, and the prominences on some of the stones resemble the interlacings of ivy, crossing each other. They are sometimes two feet and a half long, and seven or eight inches thick. Cut longitudinally and polished, they exhibit the appearance of landscape, trees, shrubs, and rivers. In general they are used rough in the rustic work of gateways and similar buildings.

Lead-ore and calamine-stone are found in various parts of the parish.

Calcareous spar also is in great abundance at Redland, with some veins of sulphat of strontian.

Forty-six freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 650—900—2325. Houses inhabited, 412.

The benefice is a stipendiary curacy, in the deanery and diocese of Bristol. The impropriation pays 10*l.* per annum to the curate, but it has been augmented by the bounty of Queen Anne, and the joint donations of Edward Colston and Thomas Edwards, Esqrs. The impropriation and patronage are in the Westmoreland family, and the Rev. T. Broughton, A. M. is incumbent.

The church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is large and handsome, consisting of a nave and two aisles, with a large chancel, and handsome pinnacled tower at the west end. In the north window of the chancel are the figures of St. Augustine, St. Gregory, and St. Ambrose, with their names, and in the other window the arms of those probably who contributed to the building⁸².

In P. N. tax. exempt in the church of Westbury, prebend. decani, 10*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

With five other prebends, 37*l.*

CCCXV. YATE, *anciently GIETE,*

Is a parish of considerable extent, ten miles N. E. from Bristol, and twenty-seven s. from Gloucester. It is situated in the vale, and the soil is generally a red grit, except a small portion of higher lands, which lie on a bed of limestone. The greater part of the parish is in pasture; of 4500 acres, about 3500 are in pasture, 400 in common, and the remainder in arable.

At the time of the general survey this place was a part of the great manor of Huesberie, or Westbury, and was called Giete. The church of Worcester were lords of Huesberie, but this manor soon passed into lay hands, and Ralph de Willington purchased it of Robert d'Evereide, 1208. Ralph de Willington had licence to erect a castle in 1293. In 1424 it had passed from this family to the Beaumonts, who held it till 1501, when Hugh Beaumont and others levied a fine of it to the crown. Hen. VII. granted it to Lord D'Aubeny. In 1557, after the attainder of the Duke of Somerset, who had obtained a grant of it, the manor was granted to James Basset, and again to his son in 1565. At the beginning of the last century Mr. Oswick was lord of the manor. Sir Francis Knollis, and after him his widow, Lady Knollis, were proprietors till about 1800, when it descended to Beckford Cator, Esq. of Church Hall, Dunmow, Essex, related to Sir Francis Knollis, on the female side, who had married Miss Cator, and with her fortune purchased the manor of Yate, and other estates appendant to the amount of 1200*l.* a year.

Stanshaw, is an ancient manor in this parish. The family of Stanshaw were early proprietors in the reigns of Hen. IV. and Ed. IV. It has been for some years in the family of Stokes. On the death of Richard Stokes, Esq. about 1780, the manor and estate descended to Thomas Stokes, Esq. his nephew, who dying 1803, Thos. Stokes, Esq. his son, came into possession of the manor and estates.

BRIMSHAM, is another manor in this parish, which continued for many generations in the name and family of Burnell, from the reign of Ed. I. Thomas Burnell, the last heir male, married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Chester, of Knole, Esq. and dying without issue gave this manor and estate to Thomas Chester, his wife's brother; from whom it has descended to Thomas Masters, Esq (99) (268).

The scite of the castle where the Lords Berkeley resided during the alienation of the estates to the crown, is visible, but overgrown with briars and brambles, without any building remaining (251).

HALL END. *Pinchpoor*, a good estate belonged to the late Richard Hill, Esq. and is now the property of William Veel, Esq. of Simonds hall (266).

RIDING END, a good estate, was the property of Thomas Russell, Gent, who died 1803.

Considerable veins of lead have been discovered on this estate, and some attempts made to work them, but not with success.

Lead-ore and calamine are found in other parts of the parish, but no mines are worked.

Considerable coal works are carried on here.

Twenty-three freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 320—412—654. Houses inhab. 126.

The benefice is a rectory, in Hawkesbury deanery, the patronage of which has been purchased by the family of Goodenough, and W. Stephen Goodenough, A. M. is the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a spacious building, consisting of a nave and north aisle, and three chancels, with two transepts. The north transept is the dormitory of the family of Stokes. The tower at the west end seems never to have been finished, being without battlements. Grotesque figures serve for spouts, and there are niches with canopies on every side, but no effigies in them. There are some remains of painted glass about the windows, and fragments in the highly finished style of tabernacle work of the age of Hen. VII. The old church consisted of the nave and chancel; on the termination of the former is a saint's bell turret: in the north chancel are the steps remaining which led up to the rood-loft.

In P. N. tax. the church of Zates, 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

In the King's books, 27*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*



XIII. BARTON REGIS HUNDRED.

CCCXVI. CLIFTON, *anciently* CLIFETONE,

One of the most agreeable and healthy villages in the island, is distant one mile from Bristol, and thirty-four from Gloucester. The soil consists of a thin surface of red earth on a limestone rock, unfavourable to agriculture, and little under tillage. The situation on a cliff decides the etymon of the name, and at the foot of this flows the Avon joined by the Frome in its course to the channel. The whole parish is about 1000 acres.

Clifton, at the time of the survey, was part of the ancient demesnes of the crown, and a member of the manor of Westbury, in which the King had thirty hides. This extensive property was soon after divided between the abbey of Cormeile, Osborn, and William, the son of Richard. The portion belonging to the abbey, as an alien priory, reverted to the crown 1415. The shares of the other proprietors descended under the name of Clifton, through a great variety of names. That which had belonged to the abbey was granted to Sir Rafe Sadleir 1544, and Ralph Sadler, Esq. was lord of the manor in 1608, whose heirs sold it to the Merchants Adventurers' Company in Bristol, who are the present lords of the manor.

The account of the descent of this manor is not satisfactory as it stands on record, and the confusion seems to arise from the general name of Clifton being retained, without any distinction of the different properties into which it was divided.

The numerous buildings which have been erected in this place during the last century, give it the appearance of a large town. Some of these are in an elegant style. One of the principal was built about thirty years ago by Sir William Draper. The area before it is ornamented by an obelisk and sarcophagus: on the former is inscribed a memorial of friendship to the late Lord Chatham, and upon the base of the latter the exploits of the 79th regiment of foot in the East Indies are particularized, and the names of 34 officers recorded, who were slain in battle in the East Indies 1759, and the three following years.

Another house belongs to the family of Goldeney; the gardens are cultivated at a great expence in the taste which prevailed in the reign of William. A grotto formed by marine and mineral productions of great rarity, is an object of curiosity.

Clifton is peculiarly distinguished by the immense acclivities of its rocks, and the medicinal springs which rise at their base. The rocks, the highest of which is 250 feet, are composed of limestone of an excellent quality. Internally are chasms and fissures of unfathomable depth, and about one third of the way down the rock, called Ghyston Cliff near the remains of a ruined windmill, is a large cavern called *Giant's Hole*, supposed to have been an old hermitage, and originally to have had a communication with the surface near to a chapel, formerly dedicated to St. Vincent, who was a native of Spain, and suffered martyrdom at Valencia in 305; whence the rocks are called St. Vincent's, and the springs anciently St. Vincent's Well. Before pastes and other fictitious jewels were brought to their present perfection, chrystals collected here were held in great estimation, as approaching nearest to the diamond, both in consistence and brilliancy.

They are found on the blowing up of the rocks, between the joints of the different strata, in crevices and small cavities, and are known by the appellation of *Bristol stones* or *diamonds*, of whose qualities they so far partake as to cut glass, to be unaltered by fire, and uncorroded by aqua fortis. Hence they materially differ from the calcareous spar, which is found here also, but which breaks when applied to glass, calcines into lime, and is corroded by the nitrous acid. Between them likewise is this remarkable difference, that the shoots of spar are triangular or pentangular, but those of chrystal are hexagonal and pointed. The strata of the rocks on each side of the river so perfectly coincide, that little doubt remains of the separation having been effected by some violent convulsion of nature. The river which runs between them is almost dry at low water, but on the return of the tide, it rises to the height of thirty feet and more, having sufficient water for a man of war of 70 guns to pass up and down in safety. One thousand pounds were left by Mr. Vick, about forty years since, to throw an arch from one rock to the other, which, should it ever be completed, would be the grandest work of the kind in the world.

The celebrated well, so efficacious a remedy in cases of bodily decay, was very anciently known, though its properties were but little examined till the close of the 17th century, when one William Gagg, a baker, having received peculiar benefit, in a disorder that was considered as incurable, from drinking the water, its virtues were announced. The spring, which rises close to the river, was protected from the irruptions of the tide by a wall. In 1690 the Corporation increased the buildings, and five years afterwards the Society of Merchant Adventurers, as lords of Clifton, granted a lease to Sir Thomas Day, Knt.

and others, who erected the Hotwell House and other buildings, for the accommodation of company. During the interval between that and the present time, so numerous and constant has been the resort, that the whole distance of ground to Bristol has been covered with houses, and formed into streets and squares.

The water of these springs, on different analyses, has been ascertained to be specifically as three-fourths to human heat, raising Farenheit's thermometer to 76 degrees. When viewed in a glass it is perfectly pellucid, sparkling, and full of air-bubbles, which are continually rising from the bottom and sides to the surface, is without smell, and leaves a kind of roughness or dryness on the palate, grateful to the stomach, cooling and quenching thirst; on evaporation it contains an alkaline earth resembling levigated pearls, with a nitrous and small portion of marine salts. The exact proportion is as follows: in a gallon of water, calcareous earth combined with vitriolic acid, in the form of selenite, 8 *grs.* $\frac{1}{2}$; calcareous earth combined with acidulous gas, 1 *dwt.* 12 *gr.* $\frac{3}{4}$; marine salt of magnesia, 5 *dwt.* $\frac{1}{4}$; sea salt, 6 *dwt.* $\frac{1}{2}$; it moreover contains eight ounce measures of acidulous gas, beyond the quantity retained by the calcareous earth in the heat of boiling water, and two ounce measures of air, equal if not superior to atmospheric air in purity; it curdles with soap, becomes clouded with oil of tartar, purple with galls, green with syrup of violets, and slightly ferments with acids. Various instances of the restorative properties of this spring have been adduced by the different chemists and physicians who have resided on the spot, watched their efficacy, and published them to the world for the benefit of others.

In 1755 the water at the Hotwell became red as blood,

and so turbid that it could not be drank. It happened at the same time as the Lisbon earthquake, but what influence that could have here, is uncertain.

Upon Clifton hill are the remains of some ancient fortifications and entrenchments, of a circular form, surrounded by a double ditch and mounds. Some coins of the latter empire, discovered here, shew that the Romans, if they were not the first occupiers, made use of it at least for the protection of this neighbourhood.

In making Sion and Gloucester Rows, coins, urns, tiles, and inscribed bricks were found, and a quantity of human bones.

St. Vincent's rocks and neighbourhood produce a great variety of plants, either peculiar to the place or rarely to be found. They have been enumerated in the botanical part of the general history of the county.

Fifty-two freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 450—1367—4457. Houses inhab. 649.

The benefice is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Gloucester, and diocese of Bristol, augmented with Queen Anne's bounty. The advowson, anciently annexed to the impropriation, was given to Westbury college, by Carpenter, bishop of Worcester. From the family of Hodges the impropriation has passed by purchase to S. Worrell, Esq. and the advowson from the late incumbent John Taylor, clerk, to his son, the present incumbent.

The church consists of a nave and two aisles, rebuilt in 1654; the tower is more ancient, and ornamented with pinnacles.

A chapel in Dowell-square is appendant to the church of Clifton, and supported by voluntary subscription. No parochial duties are performed in it.

It does not occur in P. N. tax.

CCCXVII. MANGOTSFIELD, *olim* MANEGODESFELLE,

Is four miles N. E. from Bristol, and thirty-two s. w. from Gloucester. The soil, including 3000 acres, is of a reddish loam, and nearly divided between pasture and tillage. The common lands are extensive.

Abundance of coal is raised here, of a very good quality; and on the hill at Downend is one of the finest rocks of stone in the county.

Domesday records this place as a member of the large manor of Bertune. It appears to have been afterwards divided into three distinct parts; of the principal, the Blounts, of Bitton, were among the earliest proprietors. It was purchased by William Player in the reign of Jas. I. and continued in that name for many generations. Early in last century it was transferred to Charles Bragge, Esq. whose son Charles, by Anne, the eldest daughter of Benjamin Bathurst, late of Lydney park, in this county, sold the manerial estate, with the house called *Cleeve hill*, to John Gordon, Esq. but retained the manor.

Hill house, is a handsome modern house, the property of Isaac Elton, Esq. with a considerable estate.

Another manor belonged in early times to the family of de Putot; it afterwards passed to the families of Langley and Meredith, and was purchased by the late Edward Colston, Esq. from whom it has descended to Lord Middleton, and Edward F. Colston, Esq. (296) (312).

A third manor, called *Ruggeway* or *Ridgeway*, lies partly in this parish, and partly in Stapleton. It is a member of Sturden manor (305), and passed from the Seymours to the family of Smith, of Long Ashton (305).

DOWNEND and MOOREND are hamlets, in the last of which is a small camp of observation at *Bury hill*, with a

deep foss and high agger, supposed to have been thrown up by Ostorius, the Roman general.

Sixty-three freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 750—2000—2492. Houses inhab. 488.

The benefice is a stipendiary curacy, in Bristol deanery and diocese, and augmented by the bounty of Queen Anne, and the donations of Edward Colston and John Dowell, Esqrs. ; and a second time, by the contributions of the principal inhabitants, in 1758. It was originally a chapel of ease to St. Peter's church, in Bristol, and belonged to St. James's monastery there. At the dissolution the impropriation and advowson were purchased by John Brayne, and afterwards belonged to the family of Dowel, of Almondsbury, and soon after were sold to the several landholders in the parish, by which their lands were exempted from tythes.

The church is a neat Gothic building, dedicated to St. James, consisting of a nave and north aisle, with an embattled tower, and spire at the west end. The patronage belonged to Edward Sacheverell Sitwell, Esq. (298) who has sold it to ——— Wadham, Gent. of Bristol. Christopher Haynes, clerk, is incumbent.

It does not occur in P. N. tax.

CCCXVIII. ST. GEORGE's,

Is a newly erected parish, formerly part of the out-parish of St. Philip and Jacob, in Bristol. The western extremity is distant three quarters of a mile from Laford, or Lord's, Gate, Bristol, and its greatest length, from east to west, is two miles and a quarter, comprehending 3500 acres, two-thirds of which are in pasture. The boundaries, and every other regulation as to taxes, parochial pay-

ments, &c. were settled by the act of 24 George II. which raised this into a distinct parish. Before its detachment, the general name was Easton, and more anciently Bertune, being a part of the ancient demesnes of the crown, and from which the hundred received the name of Barton Regis. The greater part of the parish lies within the limits of Kingswood Forest or Chace, and, like this whole district, abounds in coal. One turnpike road from Bath, and another from London, to Bristol, lead through the parish.

The manor and hundred of Bertune were anciently held by persons of great eminence. The Earl of Gloucester held it in 1219; Queen Isabel, in dower, 1318; Queen Philippa, 1331; Edward Duke of York, and his brother Richard Earl of Cambridge, sons of Edw. III. and Humphry Duke of Gloucester, were successive proprietors. It came afterwards into the family of Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and finally to King Edw. VII. (69)

The manor and hundred, and two mills, called *French Mills*, were granted by Hen. VIII. to his last Queen, Catherine, in part of dower. On her death, in 1549, the manor was granted to Sir Thomas Arundel, the Duke of Somerset's favourite; on whose attainder and execution, with the duke, 1552, it was granted to William Earl of Pembroke, for 8000*l*. It was afterwards in the Dennis family, and finally in Thomas Chester, Esq. of Knole; and on the death of his widow, came to Thomas Masters, Esq. of Cirencester, the present lord of the manor (268).

The lords of this manor have constantly held courts-leet and hundred courts, for the manor and hundred.

Blacksworth, or *Blakensworde*, is a manor, consisting of detached lands in several parishes. The greater part is in this, and some, particularly the passage over the river at

Rownham, is in the parish of Clifton. Robert Fitzharding endowed the abbey of Bristol with this manor. At the dissolution it was granted to the chapter of Bristol, and was leased from them to Thos. Tyndall, of the Fort, Esq. who has lately transferred his interest to Thomas Jones, Esq. of Bristol.

On a hill, within a few yards of the turnpike-gate leading down to Crews, was said to be a small dwelling house, in former ages a Romish chapel dedicated to St. Anthony, and retaining the name of the saint; but at present the inhabitants remember nothing of it. In the highway, about 200 yards west of the church, stood Don John's Cross, which was a circular column of freestone, raised on an octangular base. What remained of it is said to have been placed near an adjacent house, when the church was built; but its memory is now preserved only by a sign at the door of an inn adjoining to the spot. The legendary tale attached to this pillar is, that the corpse of one Don John, a noble Spaniard, rested here, on the way to its place of interment, probably to Spain, from the port of Bristol, if any credit is to be given to the story.

Seventy-five freeholders polled in 1776.

Population, 3435—3938—4038. Houses inhab. 847.

The benefice is a vicarage, in Bristol deanery and diocese, but archdeaconry of Gloucester, in the patronage of the corporation of Bristol, and the Rev. Richard Hart is incumbent.

Dr. Butler, bishop of Durham, gave 400*l.* towards endowing the church, and Thomas Chester gave the land. The contributions of various persons, to a large amount, were laid out, together with an augmentation from Queen Anne's bounty, in the purchase of lands. The building was begun in 1752, by the mayor, attended in procession

by the corporation, who laid the first foundation-stone, with the following inscription :—

Templum hoc,
DEI Opt. Max. Gloriæ,
Et hominum in dies peccantium saluti
Sacrum,
Erigi voluit pietas publica.
Absit tamen
Quod inter ignota nomina,
Reverendi admodum in Christo patris,
JOSEPHI BUTLER,
Nuper Bristolensis Episcopi,
Lateat nomen.
D. D. D. £400.
Jam tum ad Dunelmenses migraturus,
Regnante Georgio Secundo,
Justo, clementi, forti,
Angularem hunc lapidem,
5 Non. Mart. A. D. 1752, S. N.
Posuit,
David Peloquin, Bristolæ Prætor.

Another stone was laid on this, with the 29th and 30th verses of the 3d chapter of the first book of Kings, inscribed in Latin.

The church was consecrated Sept. 6, 1756, and called St. George's. It is a neat plain building, seventy feet long by fifty broad: the nave is separated from the aisles by pillars. The chancel is small, with a Venetian window over the table. At the west end is a large tower, square, and seventy-two feet high, with two bells⁸³.

CCCXIX. STAPLETON,

Is two miles N. E. from Bristol, and thirty-four s. w. from Gloucester. It contains 2000 acres, applied in nearly equal proportions to arable and pasture. The soil is in general a reddish sandy loam.

The parish is intersected by the Frome running through a deep and rocky glen.

The turnpike road from Winterbourn passes through the village.

No particular mention is made of Stapleton in Domesday, and therefore it must have been included in some other manor, probably in Bertune. The Berkeleys, of Stoke Giffard, were early possessors of the manor, and Richard Berkeley, Esq. was lord of it in 1608. Sir Maurice Berkeley sold several tenements to the citizens of Bristol, and others, but reserved the royalty, which is now vested in the Duke of Beaufort(313).

Stapleton-house, near the church, is the property and residence of Colin Campbell, Esq. by marriage with the widow of the late Isaac Elton, Esq.

HAMLETS. 1. OLDBURY. Thomas Winstone, Esq. died seized of it in 1757, and gave it to his widow, by whose will it passed afterwards to William Hayward, Esq. (second son of her brother, Thomas Hayward, late of Quedgeley, Esq.) who marrying a niece of Mr. Winstone's, assumed the family name, with the Oldbury estates. He was high sheriff of the county in 1777. It is now the property, by purchase, of Thomas Greme, Esq. who resides at the mansion house, called *Oldbury-court*.

The situation is very pleasant, and the grounds agreeably arranged, but capable of further improvement.

2. RUGGEWAY, or RIDGEWAY, is a distinct manor, lying partly in this parish, and partly in Mangotsfield (317). A good house and estate belongs to — Drummond, Esq. son of Dr. Drummond, who died in 1802.

Heath-house, with the estate, belonging to Mrs. Whitchurch and her ancestors, since the reign of Edward VI. now belongs to Sir John Hugh Smith, Bart. of Ashton, co. Somerset. He is a son of the late Thomas Smith, Esq. by Jane, daughter and sole heiress of J. Whitchurch, Esq.

Charles Harford, Esq. resides in a good house, inherited from the late Charles Harford, Esq. who died in 1802.

The *Fishponds* belong to Joseph Mason Cox, M. D. under whose roof lunatics find a private asylum, and are treated with skill and humanity.

The well arranged plantations in the pleasure grounds, which ornament the villas in this neighbourhood, give a very picturesque and rural effect to this elegant village.

Twenty-nine freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, 700—1280—1541. Houses inhabited, 301.

The benefice is a curacy, in Bristol deanery and diocese, augmented by Queen Anne's bounty, and the donations of Edward Colston and Thomas Edwards, Esqrs. The patronage is in the family of Smith; and — Shute, A. M. is incumbent.

The impropriation, which anciently belonged to the cell of St. James, in Bristol, was granted to — Brain, in 1544. It came afterwards to the Walters, and was vested in Mrs. Mary Whitchurch, widow of Joseph Whitchurch, Esq. and heiress general of the Walters, from whom it came to the Smiths as above.

The church is modern, small, and neat, consisting of a nave and pinnacled tower at the west end, and six bells⁸⁴.

This parish is not mentioned in P. N. tax.

SAINT PHILIP AND JACOB, *Outparish*, or
LOWER EASTON,

Is a part of the parish of the same name within the city of Bristol, but lying in the county of Gloucester. It is a very populous district, and abounds with manufactories.— Among others, are the *iron foundries* of Messrs. Harford, Winwood, and Co.; an extensive *distillery* of Messrs. Castle and Co.; a *red lead* manufactory of Messrs. Bailey and Co.; *vitriol* works of Messrs. Caves; *brass* and *wire* works of Anderson, New, and Co.; extensive works of the same kind, at Baptist mills, belonging to Messrs. Harford and Brass-wire Company; *sal ammoniac* and *spirit of nitre* works, to Messrs. Lewis, Ceser, and Co. Besides these, are *lead* and *lamp black* works, &c.

In parochial concerns, except the management of the poor, the outparish is united to the city. At the entrance into Bristol from Stapleton is a house of correction for this part of the county, built at the same time with the gaol at Gloucester, and under the same act of parliament.

Two hundred and sixteen freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, —, —, —8406. Houses inhab. 1324.

St. JAMES AND St. PAUL's, *Outparishes*,

Are parts of those parishes which extend from the boundaries of the city into the county of Gloucester. The property is very much subdivided.

Seventy freeholders voted in 1776.

Population, —, —, —1897. Houses inhab. 362.

**CCCXIX. KINGSWOOD,*

Is a parish belonging to the hundred of Chippenham, co. Wilts, but entirely separated from that county; and being environed by Gloucestershire, was introduced by Sir Robert Atkyns. It contains about 3000 acres, of a deep fertile soil, almost entirely in pasture. It is distant twenty miles s. from Gloucester.

This place is not mentioned in Domesday, nor does it appear to have been surveyed with the adjacent parishes.

William de Berkeley founded an abbey of the Cistercian order in this place, 1139, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Reginald de Walery, lord of Haselden, in Rodmarton, taking part with the Empress Maud, was dis seized of Haselden, 1141, which was given to this monastery. Upon his recovery of the estate afterwards, and building a monastery at Haselden (1171), the monks of Kingswood removed there, and afterwards, for want of water, to Tetbury. Bernard, son of Reginald de Walery, having purchased lands in Kingswood of Robert Lord Berkeley, removed the monks again to that place, 1169. The patronage was now taken from Tinterne Abbey, on which it had been dependent. According to Dugdale, the value, at the dissolution, was 244*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* It does not appear that this abbey ever had pontifical privileges, or was summoned to parliament. The scite and demesnes were granted, 1560, to Sir John Thynne, Knt. from whose family it passed to the Witchels. Thomas Witchel was lord of the manor 1712. From this family it passed to the Knowles; and was purchased by John Blagdon Hale, Esq. the present proprietor.

The gatehouse, and a considerable part of the abbey are still standing, but divided into tenements. There are

carved, and still remaining, over the kitchen chimney of the abbey, a tyger, a hart, an ostrich, a mermaid, an ass, and a swan; the initial letters make THOMAS, the name of the Lord Berkeley who was a considerable benefactor and patron to that foundation.

Kingswood is a large and populous village, but irregularly built. The clothing manufacture has long been carried on in it.

This place gave name to a forest of large extent. The office of keeper was formerly annexed to the constableness of Bristol Castle. Humphry Stafford was constable 1 Edw. IV. and Humphry Cook was keeper of the forest 1660; but the whole is now disafforested, and vested in different proprietors.

Population, —, —, —, —901. Houses inhabited, 173.

The benefice is in the diocese of Gloucester, and deanery of Dursley; a perpetual curacy, endowed by decree of the Exchequer with the annual payment of 2*l.* 16*s.* out of the estates in the parish, which are therefore exempted from tythes. The nomination of the curate is in the parishioners, and Thomas Thomas, clerk, is incumbent.

The chapel, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, was taken down about 1719, and a new one completed in 1723, consisting of a nave only, without a tower.

In P. N. tax. abbot of Kingeswode, 1*l.* 10*s.*

NOTES.

1. *Page 7.*—THE colliers used to claim the *dotard* and decayed trees; and that there might be a plenty for their use, their practice was, to bore large holes in sound trees, which soon rendered them unfit for the navy.

2. *p. 11.*—Many of the facts and observations here produced, are collected from the third report of the commissioners relative to the Forest of Dean, dated June 3, 1788.

3. *p. 14.*—The father of the late Mr. James Cockshut, of Pontypool, found, some years ago, an old man working by himself at a *blomary* forge, in a remote part of Yorkshire. Being himself well acquainted with every branch of the iron trade and works, he stayed with the man long enough to investigate and comprehend his mode of working, and saw him work, with his own hands, a piece of iron from the ore to the bar.

4. *p. 14.*—At Whitchurch, between Ross and Monmouth, were found a coin of Trajan, and a small image of brass, about four inches long, being a very elegant female figure, in a dancing attitude, and evidently an antique by the drapery.

5. *p. 16.*—In Barber's Tour through South Wales, published 1803, the same misapplication of terms occurs. After having justly observed, that the mineral wealth of this district was not unknown to the ancients, and that large quantities of *scoria*, imperfectly separated from the metal, are evidently the refuse of Roman blomaries, he adds, "that many *furnaces*, (instead of *forges*,) whose origin no tradition reaches, appear in several parts of the country."

6. *p. 18.*—This, indeed, seems to be the real cause of the disuse of cinders, rather than is the scarcity of them; as it is affirmed, that in English Bicknor the heaps appear almost inexhaustible.

7. *p. 21.*—The chemical reason of the ochreous tinge which is generally given to water in the neighbourhood of iron ore is, that the fixed air with which the water is impregnated having dissolved a certain portion of the metal, leaves it in that state of solution, on its emerging from the earth and mixing with the common air.

8. p. 25.—Ralph de Todeu came with the Conqueror, and was handsomely rewarded. He had a son and daughter by a daughter of Simon de Montfort. On his death, 1102, Ralph, his son, succeeded, and had two sons, Roger and Hugh, by a daughter of the Earl of Huntingdon and Northumberland. Roger died 1162, leaving a son of the same name, an infant, by his second wife. He was succeeded by Ralph, who bore arms with the barons against John. In 1233, he and John de Monmouth were made generals of all the King's forces (Henry III.) on the confines of Wales; and Maud Castle, co. Heref. which was his own right before, was given to him. He died at sea, going to the Holy Land, 1239, and left by his wife Petronille, Roger, who died 1277, and left Ralph, whose son Robert died in 1310, and left Alice his sister, widow of Thomas Leybourn, his heir, who, by marriage, carried the family estates to Guy de Beauchamp, where they continued till the attainder and death of Warwick, 1495.

9. p. 27.—Some writers affirm, that the sheep which were sent to Spain were of the Cotswold breed; but Marshall is decidedly of opinion, that if the Spaniards improved their wool by any breed of *English* sheep, it was most probably by that of the Ryelanders. These are a small white-faced hornless breed; their form is often beautiful, and their flesh of the finest quality. The average weight of a quarter is seldom more than from twelve to eighteen pounds.

10. p. 30.—See biographical account in the general history.

11. p. 36.—Sir G. Bromley, who was first Sir G. Smith, of East-Stoke, co. Notts. assumed the name and arms of Pauncefote only, in memory of his descent from the ancient and knightly family of Pauncefote, by royal licence, April 23, 1803. This is a very ancient family, and is found at Hasfield, in possession of that manor, as far back as 1245 (78).

12. p. 38.—See an account of May-games in Note on Apperley (51).

13. p. 38.—See biographical part of general history.

14. p. 42.—Pennant gives the following account of the *beltein*:—On the first of May, the herdsmen of every village hold their *beltein*, a rural sacrifice. They cut a square trench in the ground, leaving the turf in the middle. On that they make a fire of wood, and on it dress a large caudle of eggs, butter, oatmeal, and milk; besides which ingredients, they bring plenty of beer and whisky, for each of the company must contribute something. The rite begins with spilling some of the caudle on the ground, by way of libation; on that every one takes a cake of oatmeal, upon which are raised nine square nobs, each dedicated to some particular being, the supposed preserver of their flocks and herds, or to some particular animal, the real destroyer of them. Each person then turns his face to the fire, breaks off a knob, and, flinging it over his shoulder, says, "This I give thee, preserve thou my horses; this to thee, preserve thou my sheep;" and so on. After that, they use the same ceremony to the noxious animals: "This I give to thee, O fox, spare thou my lambs; this to thee, O hooded crow; this to thee, O

eagle," &c. When the ceremony is over, they dine on the caudle; and after the feast is finished, what is left is hid by two persons deputed for that purpose; but on the next Sunday they re-assemble, and finish the reliques of the first entertainment.

Another custom is still observed by some in this neighbourhood: Upon the eve of old twelfth-day, a cake is made for each of the male servants, and a large one besides, which is cut into pieces, and being soaked in drink, is distributed among them. Another is provided, with a hole in the middle, which is put on the horn of the best ox. If the ox throw it behind him, it belongs to the female servant; if into the fodder stall, to the servant who has the care of the oxen; if into the *boossey* (the place out of which the beast eats), to the boy. After this, they make themselves merry round the cake; and before they drink, each repeats the following lines:—

Here is to you, Champion, with thy white horn,
God send our master a good crop of corn,
Both wheat, rye, and barley, and all sorts of grain;
If we meet this time twelvemonth we'll drink to thee again:
Thee eat thy pouse, and I will drink my beer,
And the Lord send us all a happy new year.

15. p. 44.—Rudford does not appear among the temporal estates of the abbot of Gloucester, in P. N. tax. unless it is included in the following entry:—"Idem h't apud Hynch'm, cum Hymeleden, septem caruc. t're."

16. p. 46.—This was called an *ambre*, or *almory*. It was generally on the right side of the altar, and contained the sacrament of the Lord's body, the holy oil for the sick and Christmatorie.

17. p. 46.—No traces nor traditional account of the chapel of *Witle-dene* are now existing.

18. p. 49.—When we recollect the temper of the times, we are not surprized at any instance of puritanical contradiction; but in a matter, confessedly of mere indifference, it is easy to see the absurdity of deviating from established customs, without the probability of some beneficial end to be answered by it.

19. p. 59.—Plott, in his History of Oxfordshire, and Nash, in that of Worcestershire, give the name of *Pride*, to the small fish generally called *Nine-holes*, and never found but in brooks. At Monmouth, however, the *Lampern* is still known by that name.

20. p. 60.—*Ham* might signify *Home*, meaning the *Home-town*.

21. p. 64.—In this calculation, the value of the trees is certainly taken too low, according to the price at which the timber, when sawed, was sold. The profit was considerable enough to encourage more frequent plantations on lands, otherwise of little use, and not well calculated for other productions; but the coarseness of the grain, the frequency of knots, and quick tendency to decay on exposure to the external air, make it very much inferior to foreign fir.

22. p. 68.—The royal army narrowly escaped a plot which was laid for their destruction, while they lay in this neighbourhood. Some communications had been held between them and a Captain Bakehouse, relative to the betraying of Gloucester into their hands. On the night of its intended execution (Feb. 15), the governor ordered four stout men to lie in a boat under the main arch of Over's bridge, with direction, that upon the firing of the first ordnance, they should cut a cable rope; which being done, the bridge would fall into the river: by which means the army would have been all killed, drowned, or taken. But a fortunate delay occasioned them to be too late at their station (it being open day before they arrived within a mile and a half of the city), and they retreated to Newent.

23. p. 70.—During the last year the channel has changed its direction, and removed the bed of sand which communicated from the rock to the shore.

24. p. 70.—The mention of the fort in these deeds, seems to shew that some remains of the castle were then existing; but the situation could not be on the mount, because that is separately taken notice of.

25. p. 70.—This and other quotations from Corbet are to be received with all the jealousy due to an author, who was an enthusiast in the cause of the parliamentary party which he had espoused.

26. p. 71.—See note on Framilode passage (184).

27. p. 73.—If the history of the old church be well founded, it is possible that the Norman arch leading to the chancel of the present building might have been preserved at the demolition of the first, and re-erected in the second.

28. p. 81.—Rudder observes, that Sir R. Atkyns, in his account of the manor of Rodley, has confounded it with Ruddle, in Newnham, which was given to the abbey of Gloucester. He adds, "The manor of Rodele, in Westbury, was never any part of the possessions of that monastery: yet, in his list of donations to the monastery, p. 150, he first recites Rodele (in *Newnham*) as the donation of Radulph Bluet, which was confirmed by Will. II. in the time of abbot Serlo; and then mentions Rodele (in *Westbury*), with a wood and fishery, as the gift of Hen. I. to the same monastery, to find a light at the high altar, to be continually burning, for the soul of Robert Curtoise, his brother, who was buried there." The record in P. N. tax. mentions "three carucates of land, in *Rodele*, as belonging to the abbot and his sacrist, besides a mill and fishery."

29. p. 83.—In many other places, bones of the same kind have been found. In 1730, or 1731, in digging the great sewer in Pall-Mall, London, at the depth of 28 feet, in a bed of sand, were found several very large bones, which were pronounced to be the remains of an elephant. The particulars were the *acetabulum*, or upper bone of the neck; the *scapula*, or shoulder blade; and several of the vertebræ of the back bone, with the bones of the two fore legs and feet. About eighteen years be-

fore, similar bones had been dug up in St. James's-square; and about fourteen years before that, some in St. James's-place; all at the same depth.—*Gent. Mag.* 1758, p. 166.

30. p. 87.—The legend, in Bigland's collections, is S. D. H. R. *sigillum domini Henrici regis*; but on the seal, the letters are evidently H. R. D. G. *Henricus Rex Dei Gratia*. And on the coins of Hen. IV. particularly the farthings, the same letters occur. Besides that, the marginal inscription having described it as the seal of Greyndour, it is not probable that it would have been again described as the seal of king Henry.

31. p. 89.—George Wyrhale, Esq. the present possessor, is the seventeenth in succession from Matthew, who was high sheriff in 1259. During so long a period, the male line was never interrupted till 1726, when, by the death of George, unmarried, the present representative of the family came in. He is a son of Barbara, youngest daughter of Jephthah Wyrhale, and wife of Richard Davis, of the Wigmore family, co. Hereford. He assumed the family name, and, by marriage with Sarah, daughter of John Blunt, had one son, Jenkin, who died 1801, without issue; and two daughters, Martha and Mary, now living.

32. p. 91.—The tier of windows, which overlook the aisles of a church, is called the *clerestory*; probably from the apparent intention and real effect of throwing light into the nave.

33. p. 111.—See *Buckstone* in index, vol. 1.

34. p. 117.—In this tything was first produced the *Hagloe crab*, so much esteemed for the richness and flavour of its liquor. The original tree is still standing. From this, and trees which have been grafted from it, this variety of apple has been dispersed through this county and Herefordshire.

35. p. 120.—See *Abone*, in index of vol. 1.

36. p. 122.—See *tesselated pavement*, in index of vol. 1.

37. p. 122.—See *Abone*, in index of vol. 1.

38. p. 125.—See note 42.

39. p. 126.—See *Asteria*, in index of vol. 1.

40. p. 127.—In the church-yard is a female figure cumbent, with hands uplifted, as in the act of praying, without inscription, but only the date 1680. It was probably brought out of the church.

41. p. 130.—In all the deeds of conveyance relative to this estate, it is described as a manor, and parsonage or rectory; as also in the Auditor's receipt for the annual rent-charge of 3*s.* 10*d.* due for each moiety to the crown, which has lately been sold to Baron d'Aguilar; and the proprietors of the glebe-lands still keep up their claim.

42. p. 138.—Sir Robert Atkyns has applied some records to Pyrton in Lidney, which belong to Churchdown. No lands in Lidney belonged

to St. Oswald's monastery; the records therefore that mention Purton, or any part of it, as parcel of the possessions of that monastery, are to be referred to Churchdown.

43. p. 144. KINGESHAM or KINGSHOME-street occurs in ancient records, 1273. *Kingsholm* therefore, now altered in its mode of spelling, may mean nothing more than the *King's home stead*, and adds strength to the traditional account of a Saxon king having resided there.

44. p. 149.—Some historians mention the actual combat of the princes, with some additional circumstances not recorded by authentic authors. According to William of Malmesbury, Edmund challenged Canute to single combat; which he refused, with this answer, "that though he was superior to him (Edmund) in powers of mind, yet distrusted his own little body against a man of so great bulk, (*animo se quidem excellere, sed contra tam ingentis molis hominem corpusculo diffidere.*)" Rapin, anno 1016. William of Malmesbury, p. 40. Hoveden Annal. p. 250. Huntingdon. Hist. in the year 1016.

45. p. 150.—See *Castle of Gloucester* in index of vol. I.

46. p. 155.—Another etymology of Ablode may be given. AB in ancient British signifies *Furca undæ*; that is, the place where the river separates into two streams, which answers to the situation of this place, and would apply to the passages here and at Maisemore, before any bridge was built. In the reign of Hen. I. Maisemore had the name of *Ablode*, and is so recited in the charter of the following reign.

47. p. 157.—It is not said what kind of figures were found on this sepulchral stone, but it may not be improper here to remark, that the present numerals, called Arabic, were not known in England before 1130. *Philos. Trans.* No. 439.

48. p. 164. Sir R. Atkyns explains this name from the circumstance of eels being caught in great abundance in the moors; which does not seem so improbable as Rudder supposes: for as the place had not been known by its present name earlier than the latter part of Hen. III. there is certainly no necessity of referring its etymon to a British origin altogether. *Mor*, British for *moor*, had already been adopted into the popular language, and the Saxons might add, *El* or *ÆL* for eel. These moors in the rude and unimproved state of those times, may well be supposed to have abounded in that kind of fish, and circumstances of less consequence have often given names to places.

49. p. 166.—Though the priory of Lanthony had the great tythes, and Sir Owen the vicarial tythes, as appears from Dug. Mon. Vol. II. p. 70, yet no mention is made of either in P. N. tax. nor does the name of Elmore appear; so that the present church must have been built subsequent to that period.

50. p. 171.—Some account is given of Robin Hood in note to Derhurst (51). See also Steevens's note to a passage in Shakespeare's Hen. IV.

51. p. 176.—Hicks in his Saxon Grammar, observes, that the English of the South call an island formed by the separation of the channel of a river, "*en eight*," from *iggath*, Saxon for an island.

52. p. 176.—King John confirmed this priory as a cell to the more ancient one in Monmouthshire; but Edw. IV. in 1481 united them by charter, making this the principal or superior, obliging the members to maintain only a residentiary prior and four canons in the old house, to say masses, which prior was removable at will: thus circumstances were so completely altered, that the former became a cell to the latter. While, however, the demolition of this at the suppression was so unmercifully perfect, as not to leave a vestige of any part but the outbuildings, the other in Monmouthshire has still very rich and beautiful remains to exhibit of its former grandeur; but these also are fast hastening to decay from the mouldering hand of time.

53. p. 177.—Several coins also of the later empire were found.

54. p. 180.—As this church is not mentioned in P. N. tax, it is not easy to account for the Saxon and early Norman appearances, without admitting the traditional account, that the north chancel was, in early times, the chapel to Prinknash.

55. p. 187.—By the charter of foundation, Hen. VIII. a moiety or half part of the wood called *le Perche*, is given to the Dean and Chapter.

56. p. 187.—FEASTS or WAKES, when first instituted in this country, were established upon religious principles, and greatly resembled the AGAPÆ or *love-feasts* of the early Christians. These festivals were primitively held upon the day of the dedication of the church in each district, or the birth-day of the saint whose reliques were therein deposited, or to whose honour it was consecrated. In process of time, the people assembled on the vigil or evening preceding the saint's day, and came, says an old author, *to church with candellys burnyng, and would wake, and come towards night to their devotion*. Abuses were introduced as early as the tenth century, and the fathers of the church were obliged to order the people to leave off *waking*. The original design was at length totally abolished; and a promiscuous crowd from all the neighbouring parishes attended. Pedlars and hawkers likewise came to sell their wares, and so by degrees the religious wake was turned into a secular fair. Riots and debaucheries, which eventually took place at these nocturnal meetings, became so offensive, that at length they were suppressed, and regular fairs established. At many places these Sunday fairs, but still called *wakes*, are kept up, and celebrated in manner oftentimes disgraceful to religion and morality, seldom without improper and indecorous excesses.

CHURCH ALES, or, as they are more commonly called, *Whitsun Ales*, originated from wakes. The chief parish officers observing the latter to be more popular than any other holidays, conceived that by establishing other institutions something similar to them, they might draw together a large company, and annually collect from them such

sums of money as would considerably ease the parish rates. By way of enticement to the populace, they brewed a certain portion of strong ale, which was sold on terms advantageous to the seller. Philip Stubbs, in his *Anatomie of Abuses*, 1595, severely censures the disorderly conduct of these popular meetings; and it must be confessed, that wakes and fairs are often conducted in a manner not at all advantageous to sobriety and good morals. In some places they are dwindled into mere markets for petty traffic, or confined to the purposes of drinking, or the display of vulgar pastimes. Chaucer, in the *Ploughman's Tale*, charges the priests with being expert

At the wrestlyng and at the wake,
And chefe chauntours at the nale,
Markette beaters, and medlyng make,
Hoppen and houters with heve and hale.

In the *Spectator*, No. 161, is given a pretty correct description of a country wake, as it is celebrated in many parishes at this day; where wrestling, cudgel-playing, sack-running, smock-running, and other diversions are in use on the Sunday, but generally deferred to the following day. In this parish, Sunday is the principal day, and to the contiguity of it to Gloucester, is probably owing the numerous concourse of people which assemble there on the feast day, and the consequent deviations from decorum and sobriety. In the more southern parts of the county, these meetings have, probably from the abuse of them, received the appropriate name of REVELS.

57. p. 195.—The monks affected to call their estates by the names of manors.

58. p. 200.—The Berkeley family were at this time possessed of the following manors and estates in this county; Chedworth, Lydney, Awre, Etloe, Blakeney, hundred of Bledisloe, Tockenhall, Cowley, Coven's Court, Wickwar, Cambridge, Rodley, Wike, Ham, Lockingtons' Court, Senloe, Cromhall, Acton Ilgar, Kingscot, Alkington, Holts, Saul-Mary's Court, Woodford, Newport, Hinton, Pockamore, Dursley, Wotton, Cam, Slimbridge, Kingstone, Gossington, Hurst, Horton in Horwood, Nibley, Bornfield, South Cerney, Cerney Wike, Bradley, Bradston, Berkeley hundred, Erlingham, Mercote, Simon's-hall, Frampton-upon-Severn, Wortley, Berkeley, &c. *Atkyns*.

59. p. 205.—The management of a decoy-pool is very curious and interesting. The wild-ducks are enticed into it by means of decoy-ducks, bred up for the purpose. At certain times of the year they fly abroad into foreign countries, it is supposed, and return, after an absence of several weeks, with a vast flight of fowls along with them. When their return is known, the decoy-men go secretly to the side of the pond, and from a covered place, throw over the reeds handfuls of corn, in the shallow places, where the decoy-ducks are usually fed, and where they are generally followed by their new companions. This is continued for some days, and they are progressively enticed from the wider parts, till at last they come to a narrow channel, over which the boughs are brought to meet like an harbour, and the nets are laid over so artfully as

not to be seen. By continual feeding, they are at length all enticed under the sweep of the nets; and now the arched way gradually lowers in height, and diminishes in width, till it terminates in a point like a purse; but the furthest end is kept out of sight. When the strangers are following the decoys, and unwarily feeding on the corn, and have proceeded too far to retreat, on a sudden a dog rushes from behind the trees, jumps into the water, and swimming directly after the ducks, forces them on by barking. The frightened ducks immediately attempt to take wing, but are beaten down by the nets, and are thus obliged to swim before the dog, to the end of the net, where the decoy-man stands ready to receive them, and takes them alive with his hands. The decoys either escape back into the pond, or are taken up by the decoy-man, to whom they go without fear, and are caressed and well-fed for their services.

This parish has the honour of being the birth-place of Dr. Jenner, so well known for the introduction of Vaccine Inoculation.

60. *p.* 214.—Robert Webb, Gent. lived in the house at Woodend, and from him it passed by descent to Thomas Day, Esq. who sold it to Daniel Lapley, from whom it passed to — Matthews, Esq. by marriage with — Roach, a sister and heiress, and from him descended to Joseph Daniel Matthews, Esq. who sold this and Avening estate to Lord Ducie.

61. *p.* 215.—The vine plantation was discontinued or destroyed, in consequence of a dispute with the rector, on a claim of the tythes. This subject is discussed more fully in the General History. See index of vol. 1.

62. *p.* 218.—See Biographical Account in the General History, vol. 1. Fuller, in his Worthies, *p.* 353, remarking on the proverb, “You are a man of Dursley,” observes, “Thus sure I am, that there was a man of Dursley, a man of men, Edward Fox by name, a right godly and gracious prelate.”

It may be remarked, by the way, that the proverb here referred to, has been usually applied to a person possessed of more understanding in worldly concerns than his neighbour; but it is not within the knowledge of the writer of this, that it has been at all understood in a bad sense.

63. *p.* 219.—Very ill-founded objections have been raised against the use of machinery in the manufacturing of cloth: the most material is, the probability of a deficiency of work for the great numbers of people depending for employment and support on this trade: but one reason is sufficient to outweigh every objection, which is, **NECESSITY**. If the clothiers here are not enabled to undersell, or at least to sell as low as other markets, the trade must be entirely lost. The consequence then which is merely suspected from the use of machinery, will inevitably follow: but the fact is, that at present, notwithstanding all the advantages derived from the machines, every hand finds employment.

64. *p.* 232.—Camden, who has been followed by Atkyns and Rudder, seems to have fallen into a strange error, in supposing that Edward the Elder in 911, obtained at this place a great victory, and slew many thousands of the Danes, with their princes, Healsden, Cinvil, and In-

guer. The truth is, that the first battle was fought at Wednesfield, in 911, and the second at Theotenhall, co. Staff. the next year. In the Annals of Roger de Hoveden, p. 242, is to be found the only passage which could have led to the mistake: "*In occidentali ripa Sabrinae fluminis, in loco qui dicitur, BRIGE, arcem munitam construxit:*" but this referring to the western bank of the Severn, could have had no connection with *Cambrige*. And the whole narration of Henry of Huntingdon confines the battles to the same places in Staffordshire. See Hen. Hunt. p. 203; Rapin, vol. 1, p. 341, 8vo. ed. Plott's Hist. of Staffordsh. p. 414.

It is remarkable that Camden himself mentions the same battle in his account of Staffordshire, as fought at Theoten-hall, (*a house of Pagans*), now called *Tettenhall*, where he says many of the Danes were cut off in 911, by Edward the Elder.

65. p. 240.—This account is taken from Warner's Excursions from Bath.

66. p. 257.—Burnet in his life of Sir Matthew Hale, says, that conscientious Judge would be interred in the church-yard of Alderley, observing that churches were for the living, and churchyards for the dead. The old Roman laws forbade a corpse to be buried or burnt within the city; and of the same opinion were the primitive Christians in England. Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, is said to have been the first who brought up the practice of vaults in chancels, and under the very altar, about 1075. *Kennets par. antiq.* and *Somner's Kent*, p. 232.

67. p. 276.—This tree was measured in 1791, and found to be forty-four feet and four inches in circumference. Different conjectures have been formed about its age; some suppose it to have been growing ever since the time of Egbert, which would make it 970 years old at least; and others speak of it as a boundary tree of the manor in the reign of John; this conjecture is not altogether improbable, because, long after this period there were two distinct manors in Tortworth, though now, from length of time, and unity of possession, the exact division is not known. That it is very old there can be no doubt, but it is impossible, perhaps, to ascertain the true age of it. It is now fast hastening to decay. On a copper-plate affixed to the tree is engraved, "This tree supposed to be 600 years old, Jan. 1, 1800."

" May man still guard thy venerable form
" From the rude blast, and the tempestuous storm:
" Still may'st thou flourish through succeeding time,
" And last, long last, the wonder of the clime."

Two accurate views are given in Lysons' etchings of the antiq. of the county of Gloucester, No. 3.

68. p. 278.—The figure at the east end of the Pool-house is more likely to represent the builder than the saint, according to Rudder; since it has no emblematic attendant, usually found with him, and the costume is of the same age with the former.

69. p. 280.—A sanctuary was a place privileged by the Prince for the safeguard of men's lives, that are offenders, being founded on the

law of mercy, and the great reverence, honour, and devotion, which the prince beareth to the place, whereto he granted such privilege. The ancient Kings of England permitted those who had committed both felonies and treasons to shelter themselves in them, so that within forty days they acknowledged their fault, and submitted themselves to banishment; during which time, if any layman expelled them, he was excommunicated; if any clerk, he was made irregular; but after forty days no man might relieve them. Of these there were many in England, but one more famous than the rest at St. John's, of Beverley, which the Saxons called *Fridstol*; it had this inscription, "*Hæc sedes lapidea FREEDSTOLL dicitur*," i. e. "*Pacis cathedra ad quam reus fugiendo proveniens, omnimodo habet securitatem*." By 21 Jac. I. the privilege of sanctuary was taken away. See Cunningham's law dic. *abjuration* and *sanctuary*.

70. p. 283.—Rudder gives a British derivation of this name; *Dwr*, water, and *ham*, a village; but as this was long the residence of the Saxons (294), a Saxon etymology is most probable, especially as the more ancient name is *Deorham*: which signifies *Damarum domus* or *Deer's home*. See Hicks's Sax. dict. sub. *Deorham*; and Henry's hist. of Eng.

71. p. 298.—In Bigland's coll. it is remarked, that Collins in his peerage, disproves the account given by Atkyns and followed by Rudder, of this estate having come by marriage with the widow of Sir W. St. Loe.

72. p. 300.—Atkyns has brought down the descent of the manor of Cold Aston through a great many names as a lay possession, but mentions another manor as belonging to the abbey of Bath. Rudder makes only one manor, and Bigland takes no notice of the descent. In Domesday record, under the title, *Terra Eccle de Bade*, Escetone is mentioned as containing five hides; but in P. N. tax. *Hameswell* only is mentioned among the temporal possessions of the prior of Bath.

73. p. 329.—The tomb of *Sterten* is within the wall in the north chancel, with an arch of Gothic, ornamented with cinquefoils, and crocket pinnacles. A dog is placed at the feet of this effigy, which is cumbent. A legendary tale is preserved, that this man had sold himself to the devil; and it was among the articles of the contract, that he was to be carried to the church after his death, neither with his feet or head foremost, nor to be buried in the church or churchyard: to evade this part of the agreement, or *cheat the devil of his due*, he directed that his body should be carried sideways to burial, and that it should be buried in the wall of the church. A similar account is mentioned in Cox's Monmouthsh. Vol. ii. p. 337, of John of Kent, a supposed wizard, who according to the legend, would have been the property of the devil, if he had been buried within or out of the church. His tombstone is close to the east wall of the chancel in Grosmont, co. Monm.

It was not unusual for the founders of churches, or the builders of chancels or aisles, to preserve a niche in the wall for their own tombs.

74. p. 329.—This village is supposed by some to have received the

name of *Frenchay*, as having been the place where *saintfoin* or *French grass* was first introduced into the system of cultivation; but if *Froomshaw* be the right name, another etymology may be adopted: *Froom* gives the name of the river which runs by it, and *Haugh* or *Haw*, signifies green land or meadow on the banks (75).

75. p. 333.—The place is called *Mesafeld* by Henry of Huntingdon. William of Malmesbury relates that a few years afterwards the bones of Oswald were removed to Gloucester, lib. 1. page 10. Oswald was also King of Northumberland, and therefore not likely to be at Marshfield, the extremity of the kingdom of Mercia, which belonged to Penda; especially as it is recorded that Penda was the first to disturb the harmony of the kingdoms; and it appears likewise, that the battle in which he fell, was the first that was fought between them. Rapin, sub anno 634.

76. p. 337.—On the subject of crosses much has been written by the antiquaries. In Stowe's annals, it is said, that crosses were erected by Edward I. in 1290, for the loss of his Queen, in every place where the corpse stopped in its way to London. Some of these crosses are now remaining, and it is probable that in other parts of the kingdom the royal example was followed; but these crosses were in the highways, and there are at this day few parishes, where they are, either not entire, or some fragments remaining; but crosses in churchyards seem to have had other uses: for in the earlier ages, in some places, where they had no church built, divine service was performed under a cross in some open and convenient place. The superstition of ancient times seems to have led to another use of these crosses. In the copy of an original instrument, dated 25th Nov. 1449, concerning the churchyard of St. Mary Magdalen, in Milk Street, London, exhibited to the society of antiquaries by Thomas Loggen, Esq. and read March 23, 1797, is the following observation, "that there stode a *crosse* in and uppon the same voide ground, of the height of a man, or more; and *that the same crosse was worshipped by the parishens there, as crosses be commonly worshipped in church-yardes.*"

77. p. 343.—Ewery was an office (*room*) in the King's household, where they took care of the linen for the King's table, laid the cloth, and served up water in silver *ewers* after dinner. *Johnson's dictionary*.

78. p. 345.—See Abone in index of vol. 1.

79. p. 357.—Sulphate of strontian is found at Redland, Sodbury, and Ham-green. The fibrous variety in 200 parts, contains of strontian 116. 5. of acid 83. 5. with a small proportion of iron. See contributions to Physical, &c. Knowledge, by Dr. Beddoes.

80. p. 363.—See Abone in index of vol. 1.

81. p. 365.—This gentleman is celebrated for his many discoveries of new species of earthen ware and porcelains, his studied forms and chaste style of decoration, and the correctness of judgment with which all his works were executed under his own eye. He was founder and chief

promoter of an association of manufacturers in London, which he denominated "the general chamber of the manufacturers of Great Britain."

82. *p.* 366.---In this church is the representation of a skeleton figure, on a table tomb, supposed to be that of Bishop Carpenter. Mr. Gough, in his *Sepul. Mon.* *p.* 110, remarks, that he has observed one of these, but scarcely ever more than one, in almost all the conventual and cathedral churches through England. He mentions one at York, as old as 1241; and another in Bristol, as late as 1558, for Paul Bush. Carpenter died 1476.

83. *p.* 379.---In the church-yard is a plain tomb stone, to the memory of John Henderson (299), with the following inscription:---

John Henderson, B. A. died Nov. 2, 1788, at Oxford, aged 31 years.
Withhold thy hand, nor seek the chissel's aid,
To add a mole-hill to a mount of fame;
Tell, humble stone, here Henderson is laid,
And bear the best of epitaphs,—his name.

He was a person of uncommon abilities, but eccentric in his manners. See page 315.

84. *p.* 381.---The following lines are inscribed on a neat marble monument in the church, to the memory of an excellent woman, Mary, the wife of Charles Joseph Harford, Esq. who died 1798:---

Cara vale, ingenio præstans, pietate, pudore,
Et plus quam sponsæ nomine cara vale!
Cara Maria vale! et veniet felicius ævum,
Quando iterum tecum, sim modo dignus, ero.

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